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30P

THE TIMES

No. 65,260 SATURDAY MAY 6 1995

The Queen leads VE tributes

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen yesterday launched a momentous weekend of VE-Day commemorations when she led the nation in a very British thanksgiving for the end of the Second World War.

Surrounded by all the panoply and flummery that the three estates of the realm can muster, the monarch attended Westminster Hall to receive loyal addresses from both her Houses of Parliament, and to reply with a speech of tribute and memory. The former

VE-DAY

ATS girl, to this day a dab hand with a dirty spark plug, spoke with the authority born of personal experience. "The years of the Second World War formed my youth," the Queen told a packed hall of 2,000 peers, commoners, their families and 250 veterans.

"I remember my father and mother

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JAMES MORGAN



Craig Morgan, 8, left, and Rupert Grint, 6, enter into the VE-Day spirit yesterday by dressing up for a day of wartime commemoration at St Joseph's primary school, Hertford

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INSIDE



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Car 95, page 7



Free family entry to English Heritage properties. Details and today's token
page 39

PLUS
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Weekend Money, page 29

Battered Tories in loan-rate gamble

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

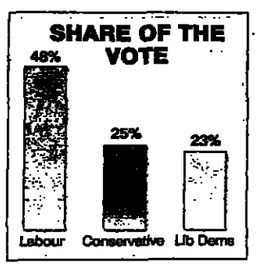
JOHN MAJOR and Kenneth Clarke gambled yesterday in the wake of the Tories local election disaster by confounding all expectations that they would raise interest rates.

With Conservative MPs in a state of shell-shock after results that surpassed their worst fears, the Chancellor surprised the City by deciding to leave interest rates at 6.75 per cent. It was a move aimed at keeping the uncertain recovery on course and stemming the Government's still-deepening unpopularity. The decision was seen last night as an immediate response by the Government to the worries of Middle England, a substantial contributory factor to the electoral "meltdown" on Thursday night. But it flew in the face of predictions from the City that he would increase rates to counter the inflationary impact of rising commodity prices.

Mr Major, his leadership under apparently hardening threat of a challenge in the autumn, offered no excuses for the Conservative slaughter that saw the local government map in England and Wales redrawn. They now hold only 13 councils in Britain.

An exclusive survey by *The Times* of 227 of the Tory councillors defeated on Thursday, found 49 who wanted Mr Major to go this year, with Michael Heseltine well ahead as his preferred successor. But a big majority, 175, were opposed to a challenge to him.

Many were sharply critical of the performance of Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman, and most blamed internal disunity, Government incompetence, and woeful presentation of Government policies for the party's troubles.



Defeated Tories blame Cabinet

A *Times* survey of 227 Tory councillors defeated in Thursday's elections shows that while most blame the poor performance on an ineffective Cabinet, they also feel that the party should not risk another bruising battle for Number 10 Page 9

As the Tory high command and Cabinet rallied behind him after a night of catastrophe, the Prime Minister defiantly pledged to take the Conservatives into the next election and to fight for his beliefs.

A triumphant Tony Blair, whose party secured a record 48 per cent of the vote, said the results "unlocked the door to Downing Street", and were a huge vote of confidence for new-look Labour. His party gained 1,848 seats and the Liberal Democrats, pleased to have made gains in spite of the Labour advance, secured an extra 483 seats. The Tories lost some 2,066 seats, fulfilling the most pessimistic predictions.

Mr Major, however, declared that he would soldier on. "I have never run away from a difficulty in my life, and I don't intend to do so now."

Even so, Mr Major's future was the subject on most MPs' minds as they left for a long and what many admitted would be a dismal weekend in their constituencies, facing the wrath of party workers and deposed councillors, many of them suddenly out of office after a lifetime's work in local

Continued on page 2, col 5

Reports and results, pages 9 and 11
Peter Riddell, page 10
Simon Jenkins, page 20
Leading article and Letters, page 21

City punishes the Chancellor

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

THE pound slumped to a record low yesterday as the City punished the Chancellor for what was viewed as a politically inspired decision not to raise interest rates.

The financial markets, which had expected rates to be raised by 0.5 per cent, accused Kenneth Clarke of compromising the fight against inflation because of the Tories' dreadful election showing. There was also suspicion that he had defied advice from the Bank of England.

But some City voices also praised the Chancellor for having the courage to act against expectations. They endorsed what he called a "finely balanced" judgement that a rate rise was not needed when the economy was slowing.

The majority view, however, was deeply critical. The markets speculated that Mr Clarke's record of being tough on inflation had given away to a temptation to cut and run and win the next election at the cost of economic stability.

Thrills and spills, page 26

Sex attacker dumps girl, 5

A girl aged five was abducted, sexually assaulted and dumped 40 miles from her home almost four hours later.

The girl was forced into a car in Newcastle upon Tyne on Thursday evening and there was an extensive police search. She was found wandering the streets of Darlington by a taxi driver just after midnight.

She was wearing just an anorak and white shoes and socks Page 5

Sacked Harrods buyer wins case

A Harrods buyer who was driven out of her job for being overly considerate towards staff in the two highly successful departments she ran, won her case for constructive dismissal.

Susan Corker was awarded the maximum of £11,000 compensation Page 3

School 'hit squad'

The Education Secretary ordered a "hit squad" of experts to take control of a failing state school for the first time. Gillian Shephard has appointed four new governors at Stratford School, in Newham, London Page 2

Militants kill Scot

An Edinburgh man was one of five foreigners killed by Islamic militants in Algeria. Alan Wilson, believed to be in his 40s, had been working on internal pipe coatings for the Algerian gas and oil industry Page 19

Chirac alerts voters to Jospin 'dangers'

From Charles Bremner in Paris

THE French presidential campaign closed last night after a last-minute push by Jacques Chirac to warn potential abstainers that they could be helping the election of Lionel Jospin to the Elysée Palace.

With the gap narrowing to only a couple of percentage points, according to some private polls, a worried M Chirac tried to alert the country to what he called the "danger" of M Jospin winning the race. Failure to turn out tomorrow could put another Socialist in the Elysée for another seven years, he said. The appeal was clearly aimed at wooing voters who chose Jean-Marie Le Pen, the extremist right-wing candidate in the first round. M Le Pen has urged the electorate to vote for neither candidate. The behaviour of the 4.6 million who chose him is likely to hold the key to the Elysée.

M Chirac has also shifted his line on Europe over the past two days, promising to hold a referendum on further union in another pitch for the sympathies of the anti-Maastricht Right. His shift has attracted heavy fire from the Socialist camp, with M Jospin questioning his stability.

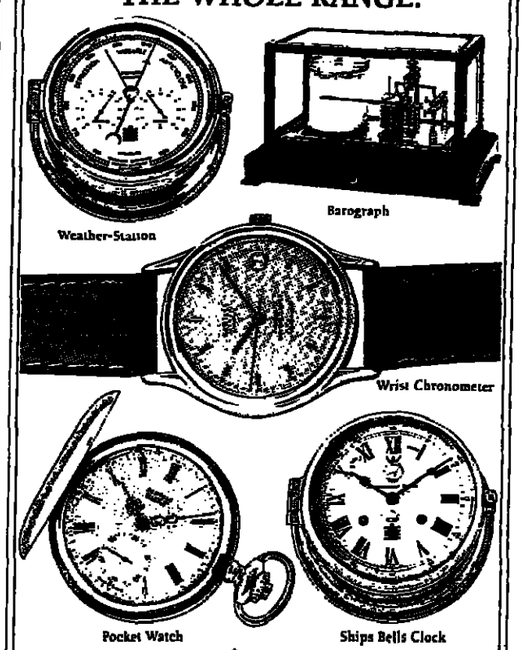
The polls this week have shown that about 20 per cent of Le Pen voters could pick M Jospin and about 45 per cent could go for M Chirac, with the remainder abstaining.

Venomous finale, page 18



Chirac: appealing to Le Pen supporters

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Smogbound Bexley tops the pollution table

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent, and Marianne Curphy

THE outer London suburb of Bexley became Britain's smog capital yesterday as the hot sunny weather and congested roads sent pollution levels soaring across the country.

Bexley, which has a population of 217,000 and lies 12 miles southeast of central London, recorded 255 parts per billion of sulphur dioxide — double the government safety limit. Belfast, Sheffield and much of London also recorded dangerously high levels of a cocktail of hazardous gases emitted mainly from vehicles.

Drifting air pollution from the cities spilt into the countryside, where it combined with the sunshine to form ground-level ozone. In places such as North Yorkshire and East Anglia ozone levels reached 103 parts per billion (ppb): international guidelines rule that 60ppb is "very unhealthy".

The Environment Department predicted that the smog would continue to blanket much of the country today. There are fears that levels could be even higher if many holidaymakers and VE-Day revellers take to their cars. "We have a Bank Holiday weekend, and this could contribute to a further decline in air quality," Mary Stevens, of the National Society for Clean Air, said.

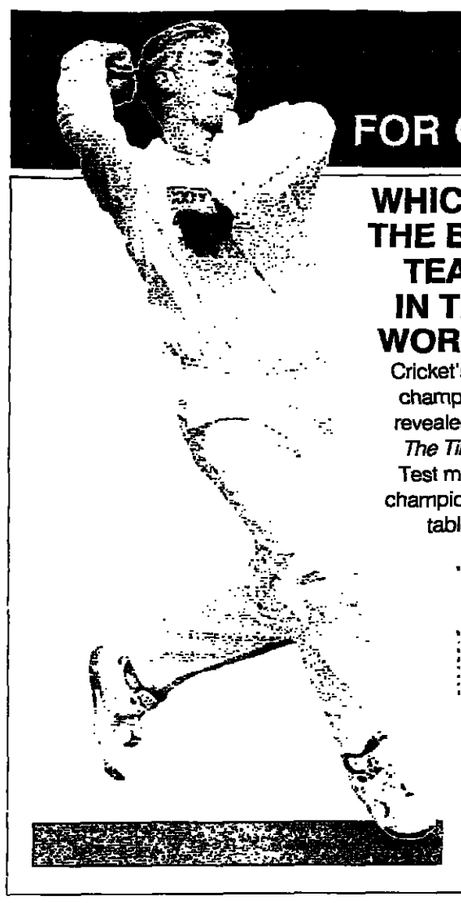
As hot, tired drivers, sweltering in temperatures of over 27C, queued on the holiday routes out of the main cities, Robert Atkins, Minister of State, Environment, urged people last night to curb their car journeys and to travel only if necessary. "The warm, sunny weather is expected to continue over the weekend, and the poor air quality seems also likely to persist," he said. "There is no reason why people should not get out and enjoy the Bank Holiday weather, but it is important that all drivers should drive responsibly in the circumstances."

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THE TIMES ON MONDAY

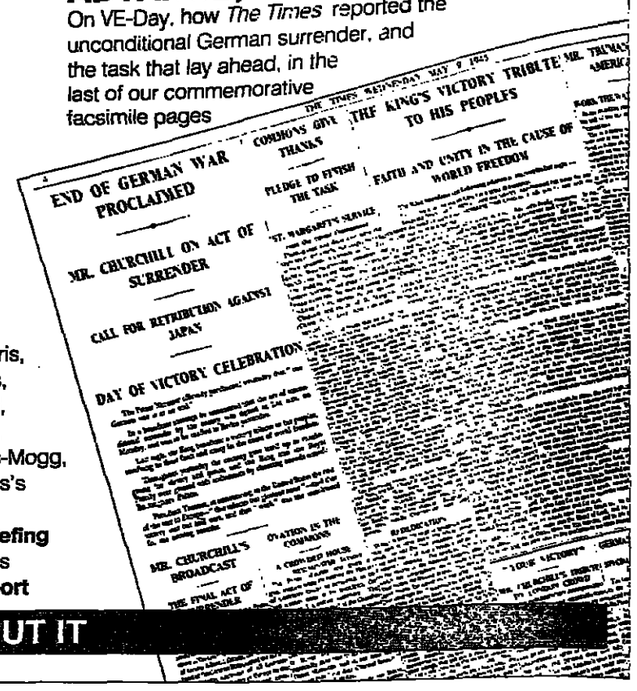
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WHICH IS THE BEST TEAM IN THE WORLD?
Cricket's real champions revealed - in *The Times* Test match championship table

THE TIMES TESTPLAN
Beginning on Monday, our parent's guide to the classroom tests for 11-year-olds: timetables, teacher's tips and test examples for every subject



ADVANCE, BRITANNIA
On VE-Day, how *The Times* reported the unconditional German surrender, and the task that lay ahead, in the last of our commemorative facsimile pages


END OF GERMAN WAR PROCLAIMED
MR. CHURCHILL ON ACT OF SURRENDER
CALL FOR RETRIBUTION AGAINST JAPAN
DAY OF VICTORY CELEBRATION
COMMONS GIVE THANKS
PLEDGE TO FINISH THE TASK
ST. MARGARET'S SERVICE
THE KING'S VICTORY TRIBUTE TO HIS PEOPLES
FAITH AND UNITY IN THE CAUSE OF WORLD FREEDOM
MR. CHURCHILL'S BROADCAST
THE FINAL ACT OF SURRENDER

PLUS:
Matthew Parris, Libby Purves, Peter Riddell, Lynne Truss, William Rees-Mogg, Nigel Hawkes's weekly **Science Briefing** and 14 pages of **Times Sport**

THE TIMES AT 10p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT

Shephard's first hit squad sent into opt-out school

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN SHEPHARD ordered a "hit squad" of experts to take control of a failing state school yesterday for the first time.

The Education Secretary appointed four new governors at Stratford School, in Newham, east London, in a last-ditch attempt to turn around a grant-maintained school that was supposed to be a showcase for Conservative education policy in the inner cities.

Mrs Shephard was faced with the choice of appointing additional governors or shutting the school after inspectors reported no improvement since Stratford became the first opt-out school 18 months ago to be judged failing under the new inspection regime. She did not have more extensive powers to sack the governing body and bring in an education association of experienced outsiders to take overall responsibility — as she could for council-controlled schools — because ministers framing the 1993 Education Act did not anticipate that grant-maintained schools would be judged as failing.

The move leaves the future of Anne Snelling, Stratford's headteacher, in doubt. Mrs Snelling was awarded the OBE two years ago after she fought off attempts to oust her by militant Asian governors.

Mark Prisk, chairman of the governors and a former Conservative parliamentary candidate, resigned this week. He launched an attack on Mrs Snelling yesterday and said she should also have taken responsibility for the failure of senior management. Mrs Shephard's decision is an embarrassment for ministers who hoped Stratford would shine a path for hundreds of other schools in Labour heartlands to quit council control. The secondary school has proved a regular source of discomfort since it opted out in 1990 to escape closure.

Opponents claimed that grant-maintained status left schools vulnerable to in-fighting when Stratford was racked by conflict two years ago between a group of mainly Asian governors and Mrs Snelling. After Stratford became the first opted out school to be designated a "failing school" inspectors visited the 580-strong school each term but concluded in March that a reform plan by the governors was not working and that the school had made no progress.

The new governors appointed to the 17-strong body are: Paul Lewis, deputy chairman of Tate & Lyle; Pat Collarbone, headteacher of Haggerston School, Hackney; Joan Greenfield, former acting chief education officer of Hillingdon and a former government education adviser; and Dr Peter Osborne, retired headteacher of Shenfield High School, Essex. They join Daphne Gould, a former headteacher and an honourary fellow of the Institute of Education, who was appointed by Mrs Shephard last September.

VE tributes

Continued from page 1

telling us at home of the courage and unity of purpose they encountered on all sides during their wartime travels, and of the overwhelming sense that we are all united in a common resolve."

In the body of the hall, the common resolve was not universal. Parliamentarians of all hues, from Baroness Thatcher to Tony Benn, filled the great 900-year old building, which narrowly survived a direct hit by German incendiaries in 1941; even Ken Livingstone had brought his mum. But while the Blairs and the Ashdowns embraced and kissed on the morning of Labour's own VE-Day, the Majors gave only the most cursory nod and sat at the far end of the row.

Flanked by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and Princess Margaret in front of the majestic north window, the Queen said: "In making these national acts of thanksgiving this weekend, and again in August when we commemorate the end of the war in the Far East, we must remember especially those who did not come back. It is to their courage and heroic sacrifice that we owe our celebrations today."

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William Rees-Mogg, Magazine, page 8

Racing gambles on Classic recipe for Sunday best

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

HORSE racing joins the ranks of mainstream sports staged on Sundays when the first meetings with betting both on and off the racecourse come under starter's orders tomorrow.

The novelty factor, allied with a favourable weather forecast, is expected to draw capacity crowds to Newmarket, the spiritual home of British racing, and Salisbury. Record advance ticket sales have been generated at Newmarket, where the Madagans 1,000 Guineas, one of five classic races run in Britain, will be contested in front of 25,000 spectators on an historic afternoon. Sunday racing with full betting has long since been the staple diet on mainland Europe. But the British racing authorities are counting on a new, family-orientated audience for the 24 Sunday fixtures scheduled this year. Creches, Punch and Judy shows and shopping malls have been installed at Newmarket, and racegoers have been encouraged to take picnics to Salisbury.

Families were much in evidence when Doncaster staged a trial meeting on Sunday three years ago. Although no betting took place, a gathering of 23,000 spectators prompted the Jockey Club, racing's then-rulers, to lobby hard for deregulation of laws keeping betting shops closed on Sundays. Twelve months ago, MPs voted overwhelmingly for the necessary amendment to the Sunday Trading bill.

Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the British Horseracing Board, said of the Sunday racing project: "It is an important part of racing's further development. You now have the chance to to have a bet, or go to the races on the most important leisure day of the week." More than 4.5 million people attended the races in 1994.

The 24 chosen racecourses have most to gain from Sunday racing, but the giant, off-course bookmaking industry has warned that profits from betting on Sunday racing will not meet increased staff costs. Most of Britain's 9,200 betting shops will open for business tomorrow but demand will dictate which shops are to open for subsequent fixtures.

Spice is added to the Newmarket fixture when Celtic Swing, the so-called "wonder-horse", contests the Madagans 2,000 Guineas this afternoon. It is expected to start an odds-on favourite for the first leg of racing's Triple Crown, a sequence last completed by Nijinsky in 1970.


Celtic Swing: odds-on to echo Nijinsky's triumph

Racing, page 41 to 43

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Battered Tories in loan-rate gamble

Continued from page 1

government. Although opinion among MPs appeared to be moving against the idea of trying to force an early leadership contest, most MPs said the atmosphere was too febrile to make any predictions over what would happen when they reassemble at Westminster on Tuesday after the VE-Day commemorations.

MPs from across the party said that a contest in November was now more likely than ever; but they also expect the Government to have a miserable few weeks as disenchanted MPs take revenge over what they see as the failings of the Government. Ministers already know that they face a serious revolt over London hospital closures next Wednesday, and certain defeat in the parliamentary by-election in Perth and Kinross on May 25, will follow.

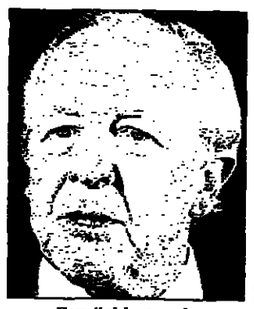
Right-wing opponents of Mr Major seemed ready to bide their time. According to influential senior MPs, the key will be the views of their colleagues with majorities of around 5,000 to 8,000, who may have to face up to the possibility that their jobs could be on the line at the next election.

As MPs pondered the bleak results, several agreed that a Cabinet reshuffle was now essential. A new party chairman to replace Mr Hanley and Health Secretary to succeed Virginia Bottomley were seen as priorities.

Mr Major's decision to confront head-on questions about his future was taken several days ago. Asked if he would step aside if Tory MPs demanded it, he said: "It is not in my mind".

Mr Blair hailed the results as "a disaster for the Government. More than that, however, they are a victory for new Labour ... John Major isn't the Tory Party's problem. The Tory Party is John Major's problem. And the Tory Party is Britain's problem." Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said the results were a clear warning to ministers: "The Government should now listen, or go."

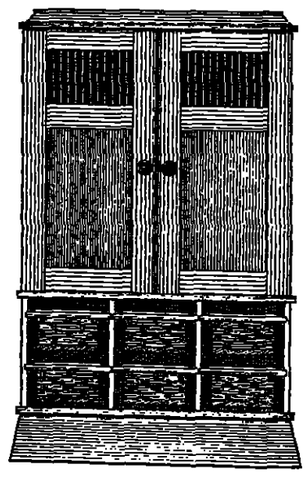
Sir Marcus Fox, Chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee, insisted that there was no mechanism for an early leadership challenge before November. But asked about a Cabinet reshuffle, he told the *World at One* on BBC Radio 4: "There's no doubt that there is anxiety about a number of issues that have perhaps not been presented as expertly as they should have been. I believe there are able people in Government. There are able people who are waiting for promotion."


Fox: "able people awaiting promotion"

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Despite all the warnings: 'We are just sitting in our own soup and still people are using their cars'

Smog shroud over nation recalls the filthy Fifties

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is suffering one of the worst episodes of air pollution since the 1950s as large areas of the country are blanketed by smog formed by a cocktail of toxic gases.

Levels of pollutant gases, trapped by still air and made more hazardous by the effect of sunlight, affected cities across the country, posing a serious health threat to ashmatics, bronchitis sufferers and the elderly. People suffering from lung disorders in the worst-affected areas were advised to stay indoors and avoid strenuous exercise.

There was little relief even in rural areas. Large areas including the North Yorkshire moors and the Peak District were bathed in a foul haze caused by traffic and power station pollution drifting from cities and reacting with sunlight to form ground-level ozone.

Shops reported a strong trade in barbecue charcoal despite warnings from the Government and clean air campaigners to resist lighting fires. Fiona Weir, Friends of the Earth campaign director, said the levels of pollution were among the worst since the clean air Act in the 1950s.

Alex Henderson, a senior environmental health officer at Bexley council, said: "We are just sitting in our own soup... and people continue to use their cars." Bexley, along with all councils in London and other cities, has air pollution monitors in place. Its location on the edge of London, with motorways and power stations near by, led to the Government installing a sophisticated monitoring station that gives up-to-the-minute readings.

Mr Henderson said there were some improvements in pollution levels since the introduction in 1991 of catalytic converters on all new cars but that was not enough, he said. "In Germany they bring in speed and other restrictions when the air quality is bad."

By mid-morning yesterday levels of sulphur dioxide, produced from power stations and traffic fumes, had reached 150 parts per billion (ppb) in Belfast and 255ppb in Bexley, southeast London. Air quality is deemed poor when sulphur dioxide, linked with childhood asthma and acid rain, breaks 125ppb over an hour.

Nitrogen dioxide levels, from vehicle exhausts, reached unhealthy levels in several locations. By mid-morning levels in Sheffield, Bexley and around central London reached 100-211ppb. Concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, a gas linked with breathing difficulties, are deemed poor above 100ppb.

Ground-level ozone, linked with eye and lung irritations, broke international health guidelines yesterday, especially in rural areas. The World Health Organisation limits are 50-60ppb and the Government has been advised by its own experts that 50ppb should be the national limit. The Environment Department has refused to set that level, claiming that up to half the ozone over Britain comes from the Continent. That claim was given support when national figures showed that the worst-hit area was Sibton, Suffolkk, where ozone levels hit 103ppb.

Many other areas, including Birmingham, Southampton and Middlesbrough, broke international guidelines. Environmentalists blamed policies that have increased car ownership and private travel at the expensive of buses, cycling and walking.

This week by a British Road Federation report showing that Britons own fewer cars than most other Europeans but use them far more. Average daily flows on British motorways are 53,600 vehicles, against 35,600 in Germany and 16,000 in France, the report said.

Legislation aimed at giving local authorities more powers to curb air pollution is being brought forward in the Environment Agencies Bill before the House of Commons.

Black spots, page 1
Letters, page 21
Forecast, page 24

JAMES MORGAN



Pollution obscures London landmarks yesterday, when another day of cloudless skies sent temperatures soaring and air quality sinking

SMOG FILE

☐ *What causes the pollution?*
Traffic fumes, vapour from petrol stations and vehicle fuel tanks, and power stations. The hot, still weather prevents the gases from dispersing. The problem gases in cities are mainly sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. In the countryside, it is ozone. This is formed when pollutant gases in cities rise and react with sunlight. It drifts into rural areas where it descends and builds up at ground level.

☐ *How dangerous are these gases?*
All cause breathing difficulties and are linked with asthma, heart attacks, headaches, eye and skin irritations and cancers such as leukaemia.

☐ *What can people do?*
Those with sensitive lungs and breathing difficulties should eat more fresh fruit and vegetables — anti-oxidant foods that may neutralise the effects of the pollution. The effects of ground-level ozone may be countered by extra vitamin C and E, according to Professor Stephen Holgate of Southampton University, an asthma expert and a member of the Department of the Environment's air pollution advisory panel. He said vulnerable groups should refrain from exercise and consider increasing medication. Face masks are of little help.

☐ *What is the Government doing?*
Issuing advice to leave the car at home on high-pollution days and walk, cycle or take public transport. Vehicles should be parked in the shade to reduce petrol vapours. People should also refrain from painting outside and lighting barbecues.

Peer tells of sister's tortured drug life

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE sister of Lord Harlech and former fiancée of the rock star Eric Clapton died from an overdose of an unusually pure form of heroin just as she was beating her 20-year addiction, an inquest was told yesterday.

Alice Ormsby Gore, 43, had taken a lethal combination of heroin and alcohol before being found slumped over a bed in her bedsit in Bournemouth. Nigel Neville-Jones, the Dorset coroner, recording a verdict of death by misadventure, said he hoped her death had not been in vain.

He hoped the story would be given the appropriate publicity "because perhaps from that publicity others may learn of the folly of their ways if they persist in taking hard drugs and even more so if they mix those hard drugs with high amounts of alcohol".

Lord Harlech told the inquest at Poole that he had helped his sister in rehabilitation sessions for 20 years. He described her as "a difficult, tortured human being". He added: "She was naturally welcomed by people. Because of this she made friends easily. Drunkenness and drug abuse, I think, fall very often to people of high intelligence. They feel frustrated by their own inability to succeed."

Supt Peter Harrison said he was dealing with seven deaths related to overdoses involving pure heroin. Detectives were working on identifying the dealer with a view to charging him with manslaughter.

'Too considerate' Harrods buyer awarded £11,000

BY BILL FROST

A HARRODS buyer who was driven out of her job for being too considerate towards staff in the two highly successful departments that she ran won her case for constructive dismissal yesterday.

Susan Corker, 50, who failed to "tread on the fingers" of those who worked for her, was awarded the maximum compensation of £11,000 by an industrial tribunal. In addition, the store was ordered to pay her £1,230 in recognition of her length of service.

Mrs Corker told the hearing in Croydon, south London, that she was forced out of her job last May because her approach towards staff was "not despotic" enough. She set up the successful corporate gifts department in February 1990, selling to clients such as Rover. Three years later she was asked to run the bridal registry department where she took the turnover from £1.25 million in 1993 to £2.11 million a year later. Last year Mrs Corker, from Chepstow, Gwent, was removed from the bridal section and demoted. She was told that Raj Assanand, a new director, had said there had been complaints about her appraisals of junior staff.

Andrea Warden, her immediate superior, said that the real reason for her demotion was that she was too soft. Mrs Corker told the hearing: "Andrea told me the Harrods policy of treating their staff was to tread on their fingers. I thought I would do things differently and treat staff like friends."

Earlier the tribunal had heard Mrs Corker described as a highly valuable member of staff. One of the store's senior executives said: "She could sell coals to Newcastle."

Mr Assanand, who made the decision to move Mrs Corker, admitted that he refused to give her a pay rise. He told the hearing: "We might have felt she was being paid enough already. That was my decision."

Mrs Corker, who now works as a national events organiser for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, criticised the regime at Harrods for being tough on its employees. "They are still very tough, especially with their junior staff."

Asked after the hearing if she regretted her good manners towards staff, Mrs Corker said: "Certainly not. I am always polite."



Corker: "always polite"

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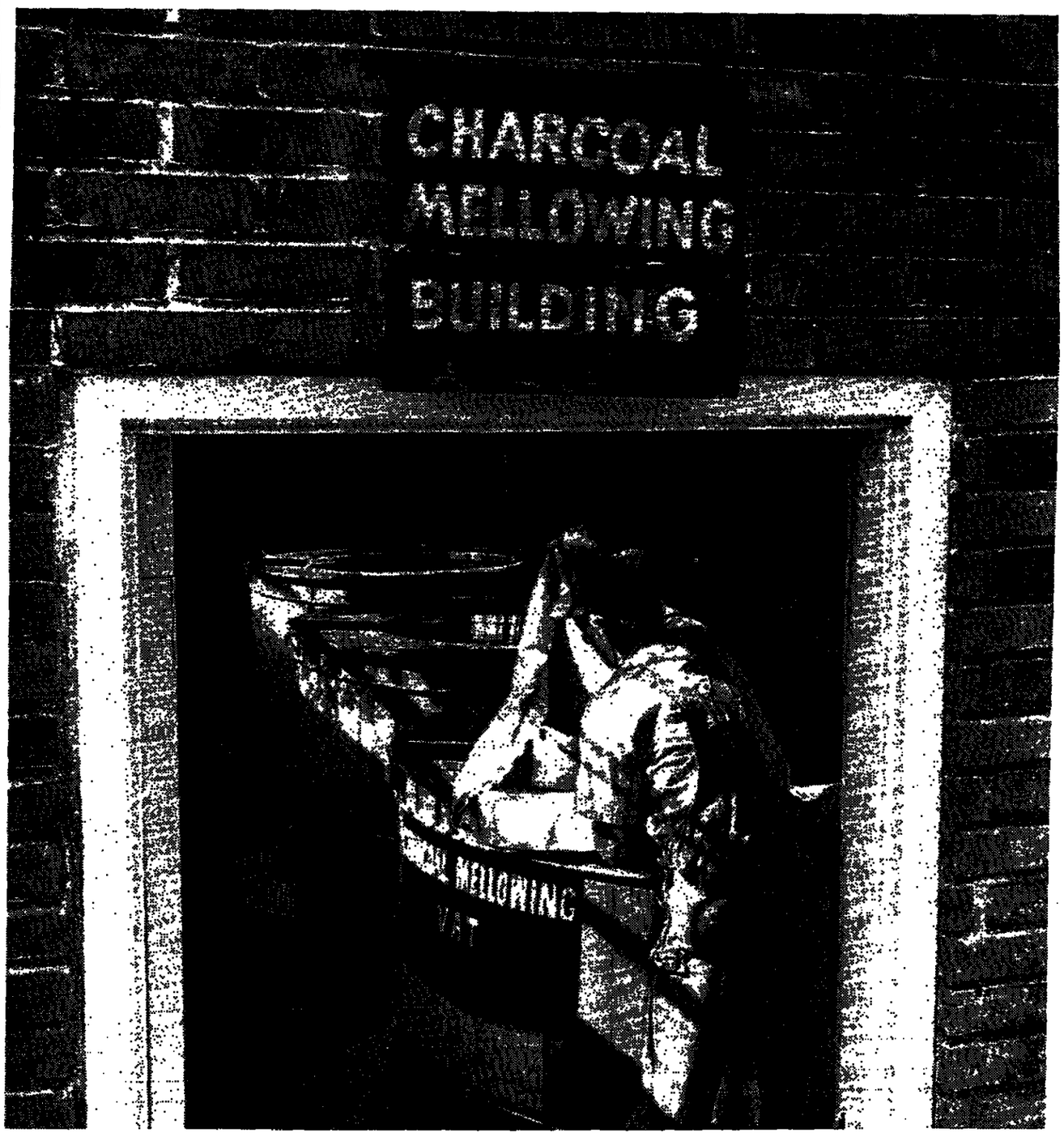
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Girl... mile... by...

Bereaved mother put on probation

Parents told t... vandals or ...

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MAY 6 1995

نقلاً عن الأصل

Girl, 5, dumped 40 miles from home by sex attacker

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A GIRL aged five was abducted, sexually assaulted and dumped 40 miles from her home almost four hours later, police disclosed yesterday.

The girl was forced into a car in Newcastle upon Tyne on Thursday evening and then found wandering the streets of Darlington just after midnight. She was wearing just an anorak and white shoes and socks. The rest of her clothes were missing.

Northumbria Police is examining possible links with reports on Tyneside over the past five years of a man attempting to lure children into a car. Detective Chief Inspector Chris Symonds said: "During her ordeal she had been undressed and her white Lycra cycling shorts and red and black floral T-shirt were taken." He added that she had been forced into a white car at about 8.30pm on Thursday after a brief conversation with a man outside on off-licence near her home in the Blakelaw area of Newcastle.

A police search that included a helicopter equipped with a thermal imaging camera failed to find her, but soon after midnight a taxi driver reported finding an abandoned child on a Darlington street corner.

Mr Symonds said: "At this time she was in an undressed state and clearly upset. She is not suffering any serious physical injuries but because of her age and the experience she has gone through she is very traumatised."

He described the child's kidnapper as tall, slim, with short black hair and wearing black trousers and a blue shirt. "This is a very serious incident indeed and we will do everything we can to catch the person responsible. There is a real risk that the man could strike again. There has certainly been an element of determination in what this man has done. He was prepared to use a degree of force to push her into the car."

Darren Lambert, the taxi driver who found the girl, said: "I asked her what she was doing and she said, 'I'm waiting for a friend. We're looking for a doggy.' She didn't seem too upset or distressed, but as soon as she said that I knew there was something seriously wrong. I just immediately thought she had been abducted. I picked her up and put her into the back of the car and said: 'I'm going to take you to see a nice policeman'."

Mr Lambert, 27, a father of two, asked the girl who her 'friend' was. "She couldn't give me a straight answer, but she gave the impression she had been with a man. I asked her if she had been in a car and she said yes. She looked very lost and said that her mammy and daddy lived in Newcastle somewhere but she couldn't tell me where her home was."

Yesterday the little girl giggled and peeped around the front door of the family home as her mother, aged 40, spoke of her relief. "There were times while we were searching the streets when I never thought I would see my little angel again. I thank God that she is safe and well and back home with us where she belongs. I don't think I will ever let her out of my sight again."



Darren Lambert: taxi driver who found girl

ANDRE CAMARA



Jane, Sheila Bowler's daughter, after the lost appeal

Aunt's killer loses appeal hearing

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Court of Appeal yesterday upheld a music teacher's conviction for killing her elderly aunt for her money and rejected criticisms of the QC who represented her at her 1993 trial.

Sheila Bowler, 65, of Rye, East Sussex, was jailed for life at Lewes Crown Court after being found guilty, by a majority of 11-1, of murdering 89-year-old Florence Jackson.

Mrs Jackson, her late husband's aunt, was found drowned in the River Brede in Sussex in May 1992, the morning after Bowler collected her from a residential home at Winchelsea.

At her trial, Bowler was described by the Crown as a "cold, calculating and callous" woman who pushed "Aunty Flo" into the river because she did not want her inheritance, a flat worth £35,000, eaten up by nursing home fees. The Crown said that after the killing Bowler let down a tyre, went to a house for help and then reported her aunt missing.

Yesterday the appeal judges rejected "entirely" criticisms by Gordon Pollock, QC, Bowler's counsel at the appeal, against Nicholas Purnell, QC, her defence counsel at the trial, and his instructing solicitors.

They also had no doubt that the summing-up by Mr Justice Garland was fair.

The judges went out of their way to praise Mr Purnell's destruction of important planks of the prosecution evidence at the original hearing.

Bowler, whose case has been taken up by Chris Mullin, MP, and Channel 4's *Trial and Error* programme, is serving a life sentence fixed at 12 years.



Sheila Bowler: life sentence

THE SUNDAY TIMES



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Bereaved mother put on probation

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MOTHER whose six-year-old daughter died after she was given wine to drink was placed on probation for three years yesterday.

Sarah Collins, 30, let her daughter Stacey toast her uncle's success in gaining a degree. The child went to bed and was later found dead after choking.

Paul Thomas, for the prosecution, said at Cardiff Crown Court that the child had an alcohol level double the legal limit for drivers. "The mother told police she had given the little girl a glass of wine," he said.

"The girl made frequent trips back to the kitchen where the 1½ litre bottle of wine was left within easy reach. The mother insists she had only one glass but we cannot say that is all she drank."

Mr Justice Scott Baker told Collins: "I do not believe you would have done anything to deliberately harm your daughter who you loved dearly and is now dead. But you must bear a significant level of responsibility for this tragedy."

Collins, of Sketty, Swansea, West Glamorgan, pleaded guilty to causing cruelty to a child. She had told police "I did not see any harm in it. It is common in France to give children wine."

After finding the body, Collins, who was seperated from Stacey's father, tried to slash her wrists and drown herself in the sea. It was 30 hours after Collins had found her daughter before police and an ambulance crew were called.

Patrick Harrington, representing Collins, said: "She will no doubt view the rest of her life through a window of tears."

Students in trouble over dope issue

Police and academics have criticised students who produce the *Oxford magazine Isis* after cannabis seeds were distributed with the latest issue. The edition carries an article criticising drug laws but warns students they will be breaking the law if they plant the seeds. Cultivation or consumption of cannabis is illegal but possessing or supplying the seeds is not.

Gliding death

One man was killed and another seriously injured when a glider that had just taken off crashed at an airfield near Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.

Fateful order

An Irish judge ordered the withdrawal of a life-support system from a woman who suffered severe brain damage during an operation 20 years ago, pending an appeal.

Pavarotti agrees

The Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti will sing at Cardiff Arena on June 3 to raise funds for a children's hospice after a personal request from the Princess of Wales.

Arsonist jailed

David Broom, 34, a waiter, was jailed for a year by Gloucester Crown Court for setting fire to his parents' home after they banned him from the house.

Blast from past

An 18in incendiary brought by a nurse for a wartime display at a Manchester hospice was found to be live. Houses were evacuated while it was made safe.

Parents told to curb vandals or face jail

BY A STAFF REPORTER

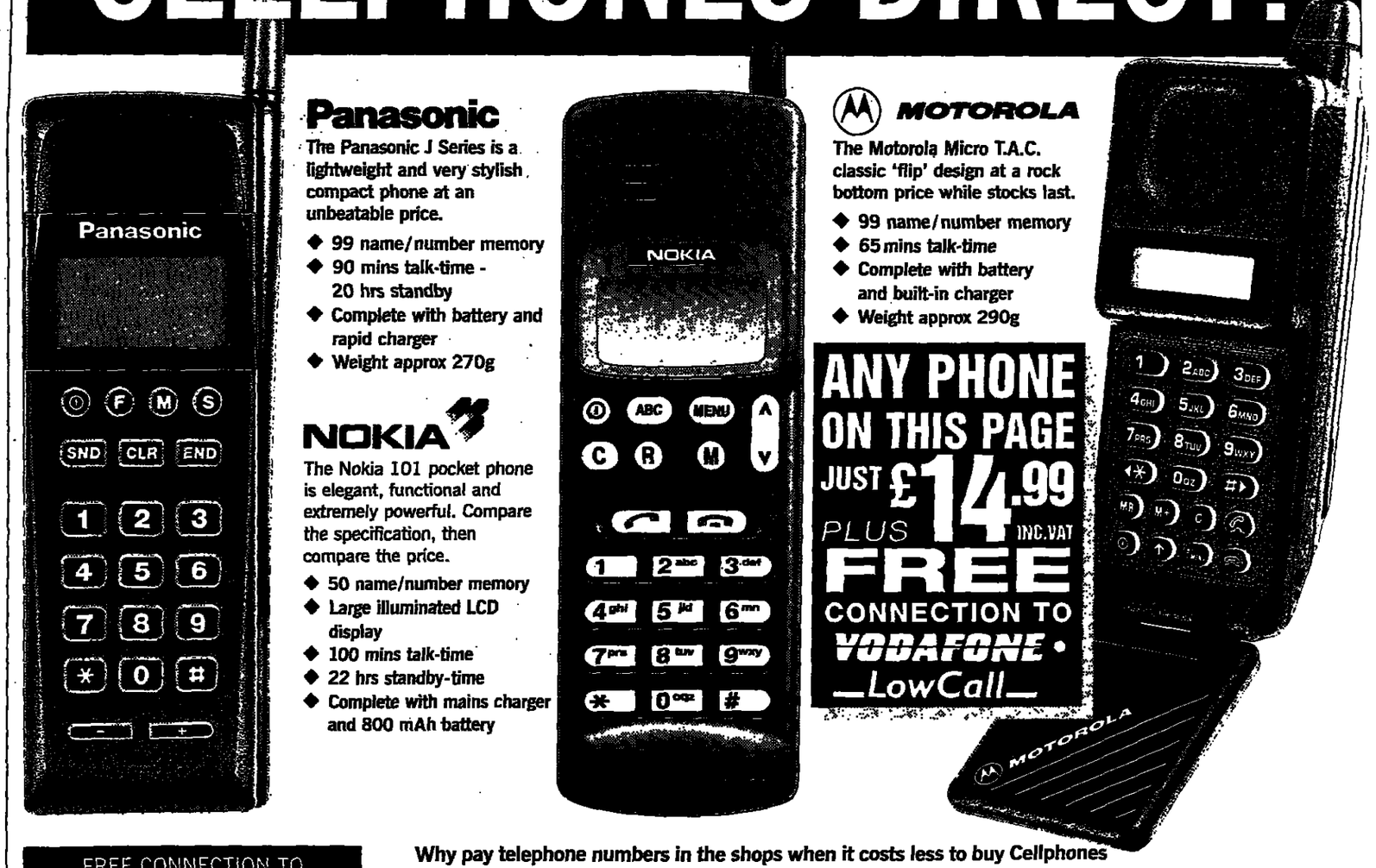
THE parents of four teenagers agreed yesterday to keep them away from two council estates or to face jail themselves.

The undertaking was given at a London Central County Court hearing before Judge Pitman after allegations that the boys had engaged in two years of vandalism and loutish behaviour on the Peckwater and Kenbrooke estates near their homes in northwest London.

Camden council sought the injunctions against the parents to deter the teenagers from further anti-social behaviour. Agreeing to the request, Judge Pitman told the parents: "Failure to observe this undertaking could amount to a custodial sentence or a fine." The boys would be allowed on the estates only if taking part in supervised activities or if dating a girl from the estate.

The father of two of the boys said the injunction was "grossly unfair". "The council has acted on conflicting information supplied by just two people. The only reason I'm going along with this is that I don't want my sons on the estate any more. I don't want to lump them in with the troublemakers."

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*The Government figure shown is at a constant 56 mph. Further figures: Urban Cycle, 40.2 mpg. At a constant 75 mph, 43.9 mpg. Touring Average, 45.7 mpg.

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Minister warns court clerks of legal aid sanction

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government gave a blunt warning to justices' clerks yesterday that responsibility for gra... legal aid would be removed from them unless they improved controls.

John Taylor, junior Minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said it was likely the Auditor and Comptroller-General would refuse to approve the legal aid account, which costs more than £400 million a year, for a fifth consecutive year because of anomalies and mistakes.

"This reflects very badly on the current system and I must put it to you bluntly that it cannot be allowed to continue," he told the clerks' annual conference in Harrogate.

The minister also criticised justices' clerks over the £200 million backlog of unpaid fines. "It is imperative that we make progress in reducing the outstanding total if the credibility of the courts and justice for victims is to be maintained," he said.

There was great concern in Parliament and among the public about the non-payment of fines, compensation orders and other monies that courts must collect. "That sentences should remain unenforced on that scale calls into question the credibility of the courts themselves."

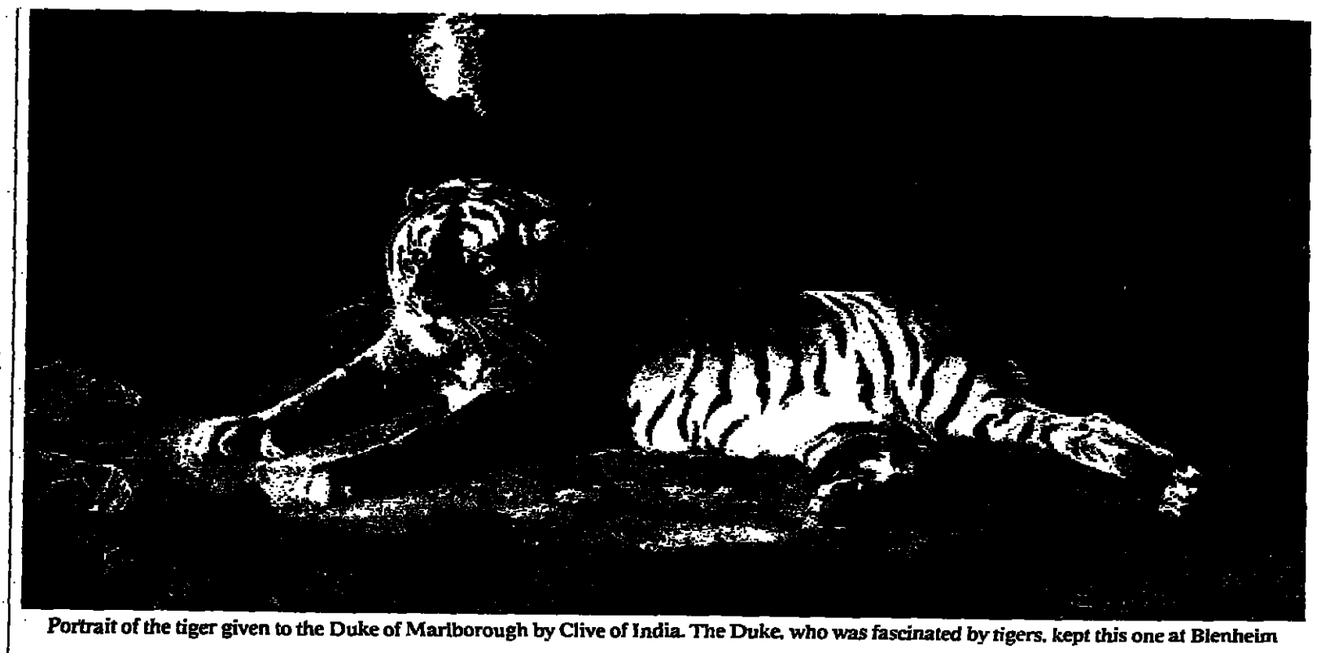
Mr Taylor told the justices' clerks, who are the chief legal advisers to magistrates and senior court managers, that they had to ensure legal aid rules were properly followed. He particularly criticised them for not always requiring that claimants provide evidence of their means, and for making "still too many errors" in the assessment of legal aid and in calculations of the contributions to be made by claimants.

"Provided the guidance is made available and an adequate system of management control is in place; most of these basic errors ought to be avoidable and ought to be avoided," Mr Taylor said.

If the clerks "do not produce the required results, something more fundamental will be needed". The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, had considered transferring responsibility for criminal legal aid from the magistrates courts to the Legal Aid Board. Although Lord Mackay had chosen not to do that, it was one option that would "come back into play" if significant improvement were not shown quickly.

Mr Taylor added that there was no intention to interfere with the exercise of judgment necessary in dealing with legal aid applications. Those involved, however, had to demonstrate their accountability for the use of public money.

On the unpaid fines, he said that although there was evidence that courts were committed to collecting monies and pursuing defaulters, they were often hampered by lack of information on the whereabouts of defendants. Mr Taylor said that a number of agencies, including the clerks, were involved and they needed to work together.



Portrait of the tiger given to the Duke of Marlborough by Clive of India. The Duke, who was fascinated by tigers, kept this one at Blenheim

Stubbs tiger portrait likely to fetch £5m

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MAGNIFICENT portrait of a tiger by George Stubbs, an unsurpassed master of animal painting, is coming on to the market for the first time in 200 years. It is expected to fetch some £5 million at Christie's in June.

The painting, likened in importance to his monumental portraits of stallions of his day, was sold in the artist's studio auction in 1807, a year after his death, for 350 guineas — the highest price achieved in that sale.

Portrait of a Royal Tiger is a near-lifesize image presented by Clive of India, the Governor of Bengal, to the 4th Duke of Marlborough in the 1760s. It is the largest of three versions of the subject — a Royal Bengal tiger against a rocky landscape. The Duke, like his 18th-century contemporaries, was fascinated by tigers; he kept the animal in this painting in a menagerie at Blenheim Palace. The house's archives include an Oxfordshire butcher's bill of 1763 showing that 24 pounds of meat were delivered every two days at three shillings a time. Such was the popularity of Stubbs's images that they were repeatedly copied in engravings by other artists. Lord Hindlip, chairman of Christie's, described it as "the finest 18th-century British picture to come to auction since the late 1980s. The picture has been sheltered from the public eye — not having been offered for sale for almost 200 years nor recently exhibited." He added: "I love this picture. I'd buy it. I don't usually say such things, though there have been others I've wanted. But this is a great picture."

The portrait, which is being sold by the trustees of the Portman family, was last exhibited when it was on loan to the Tate Gallery from 1947-61.

BR admits sham to avoid line inquiry

BY OUR SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail admitted yesterday that it was planning to run sham services at anti-social times on small stretches of track to allow it to abolish the Fort William to London sleeper service without going through the statutory closure procedures.

BR also admitted that its plans to close the sleeper on May 28 could have an impact on the Highland economy and on tourism in the region.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh was told that Highland Regional Council, which is seeking a judicial review of the planned closure, believes the scrapping of the Fort William sleeper is "unlawful, unreasonable and irrational".

The court was told that because the closure of any rail track would trigger the statutory closure procedures, BR planned to run a train from Maryhill, in Glasgow, and Bishopbriggs on the outskirts of the city — on track used only by the Fort William sleeper — departing at two minutes to midnight. A decision will be given on Tuesday.

River goes on sale at £6,000 per salmon

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

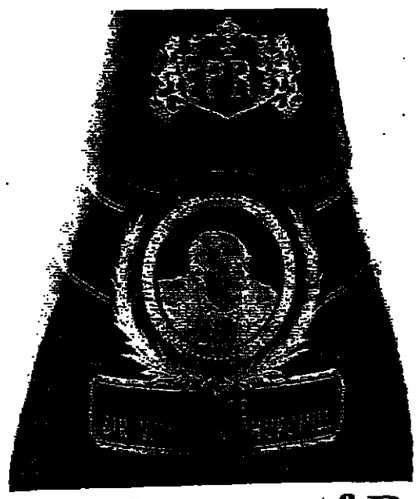
ONE of Scotland's top salmon rivers is on sale for more than £1.85 million. A 12-mile stretch of the Halladale in Caithness is being sold with a six-bedroom lodge house by the cider heir Jonathan Bulmer.

He is moving to Harris in the Western Isles, where he has bought a 50,000-acre sporting estate for £3.5 million. The stretch of river averages 312 salmon a year and its sale heralds an upturn in the market for salmon rivers after a number of poor years.

The river is being marketed for about £6,000 a fish, still much lower than the £15,000 a fish asked for some stretches of Scottish salmon rivers in the late 1980s.

The Halladale rises near Forsinard, 125 miles north of Inverness, and enters the sea at Melvich Bay, on the north coast. It flows through heather moorland, native hardwoods, traditional farmland and the occasional rocky gorge. There are spectacular sandy beaches at Melvich and Strathy. The area is one of the last wildernesses in Europe.

THE TIMES



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THE QUESTIONS

1. Sir Winston Churchill's ancestor, also called Churchill, distinguished himself as one of Britain's greatest military commanders. By what name is he better known?

2. Churchill loved returning to his old school for renunions, where he joined in the singing of the school song. What was the school and the name of the song?

Phone in your answers to all four questions before midnight on Wednesday May 10 on 0891 866963*.

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TEXAS HOMECARE

'I prayed very hard to stay in the fire brigade, and I ended up as a vicar'

Clergy reveal unexpected answers to their prayers

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE clergy still believe in the power of prayer, but God sometimes answers their pleadings in mysterious ways, according to a survey of about 800 priests and Christian laity.

Prayers answered vary from a woman going into labour when the vicar said "Good Lord deliver us" to finding a parking space, according to the mixture of anecdote and serious communing with God disclosed by early results of the survey.

The Rev Andy Twilley, of Birmingham, described how "a minister was praying enthusiastically about Heaven and how he desired and longed to be there — and God instantly answered the prayer, because he died that moment".

Whether ministers chose to address God as "Mother", "Father", "Jesus" or "Lord", they reported the importance and value of prayer in their lives. Canon Cedric Catton, Vicar of Exning, Suffolk, said the quickest answer to one of his prayers was when his wife accepted his proposal of marriage, and the slowest was when he was trying to find a new secretary for his parochial church council.

Canon Catton reported how, during a litany, when the response was "Good Lord deliver us", a woman went into labour. He also claimed medical evidence for a case where "during prayer and laying on of hands, a terminal illness was permanently reversed".

The Rev Mark Worthington, a curate in Sunderland, confessed an unexpected answer to his prayers: "I suffered from genetic garrulousness and became conscious of how this prevented other people communicating with me." He prayed to become a quieter person, and a year later was in hospital having vocal nodes removed and receiving speech therapy.

The Rev Penelope Payne, from Hayling Island, prayed for a few days' rest from her young family and two days later was admitted to hospital for a knee operation.

The Rev David Snuggs, of Southampton, said his third child was born in a hurry at home, and he and his wife had to deliver her themselves. She did not breathe immediately because the umbilical cord was wrapped around her neck. He said: "We prayed, she breathed."

The Rev Philip Johns, of Carmarthen, was praying for a job for one of his children. "A phone call followed, offering him a job." The Rev Terry Evans, of Rainhill, Merseyside, said: "Prayer works in a funny sort of way. You have to be careful about what you pray for. I prayed very hard when I was in the fire brigade that God was calling me to stay in the fire brigade, and I ended up as a vicar."

According to the survey, carried out on behalf of this year's Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park, Surrey, later this month, the Royal Family is top of the prayer list.

The Rev Bernie Collins, of Bournemouth, said: "They are still significant people in the nation." Canon Catton said: "They may change. We believe in penance, forgiveness and a new start."

The traditional approach to language and prayer is still popular. The Rev Chris Benyon, of Seaford, East Sussex, said: "You cannot make God a sexless person. Jesus addressed him as father. We don't address anyone as parent."

An Anglican religious sister, who requested anonymity, said: "God is my father. I do not believe in the feminist movement, inside or out of the Church. In no form whatsoever do I place a female role within the Godhead."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

ADRIAN BROOKS



The Rev Terry Evans: "Prayer works in a funny way"

Credo

How to live happily in God's time

Albert H. Friedlander

A number of years ago, I walked along the beach of a resort in New York State with a Christian theologian I admired and loved. Paul Johannes Tillich had fled from the Nazis and had become a profound influence within American theology. My synagogue in East Hampton was next door to his house, and I lived "on top of the shop", so that we could meet on occasions. He felt close to the Jewish tradition, and often spoke of the biblical vision which set the God of time against the gods of space. "Space and time belong together," he told me. "We measure time though space and space within time; and we exist in both. But pagans make space the ultimate value: their gods are tied to space which they defend against other gods; and they cannot believe in a unique God. And belief in space leads to belief in blood and race and nation. This leads to war: space wants to expand ..."



Judaism, as Paul Tillich saw it, lives far more in time, closer to the eternity of the One God. I have always found this a source of comfort, particularly in these days of the secular which expands the space of unbelief at the expense of faith. I still live "on top of the shop" in a London synagogue. And, these days, when Jews "count the Omer" — reciting each day between Passover and Shavuot until the cycle of seven weeks is completed and next weekend's Festival of Weeks (Pentecost) is celebrated — I am happy to be caught up in the web of time, living, as it were, in sacred time.

I know Jews are not unique in this: my favourite Bach choral is *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbest Zeit* — people of faith *can* live happily in God's time. But then we face the accusation that we are running away from life, that the answers of our religious faith do not meet the problems of a world of genocide and of despair. Firmly, with respect to others, I disagree. We live in the world of space and of time. With much horror, I view the religious fanatics of every faith who plunge into that space filled with belief in blood and race and nation. I recognise how destructive religion can be once it has surrendered to the gods of space. That is why I want to spend more time in the sanctuary.

There is a fundamental need to find the hidden resources of religious faith that stand outside of time and enter our world and our space in our sanctuaries. We can never escape from our world, from our language, from the pressures that are part of daily life. Religious language changes with each decade, and some of our finest insights will come to us through new liturgies. Yet the old endures as well. Within the serenity of the house of worship we can be approached by the sacred objects and the sacred language that has nurtured us through the millennia. We see its mystic dimension: but we also come to understand that we are committed to a personalist and ethical vocabulary which in the end moves us from the Mystery to the Commandment.

The lovely and sadly missed Donald Swann once shared a cantata with me, *The Five Seasons of God*. There are five scrolls (*megillot*) in the Bible: Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, the Song of Songs, and Ruth. We used each in turn, for summer, autumn, winter and spring, since they are read on the 9th of Av, Tabernacles, Purim and Passover. Ruth is read on the Festival of Weeks, which we called "The Season of God". The Ten Commandments were given at that time — and Ruth followed Naomi into the faith of Israel. Ruth moved into sacred time, and she became the ancestor of King David; and, says the tradition, of the Messiah. Meanwhile, in all our traditions, we move along that same road.

☐ Albert H. Friedlander is Dean of Leo Baeck College and Rabbi of Westminster Synagogue



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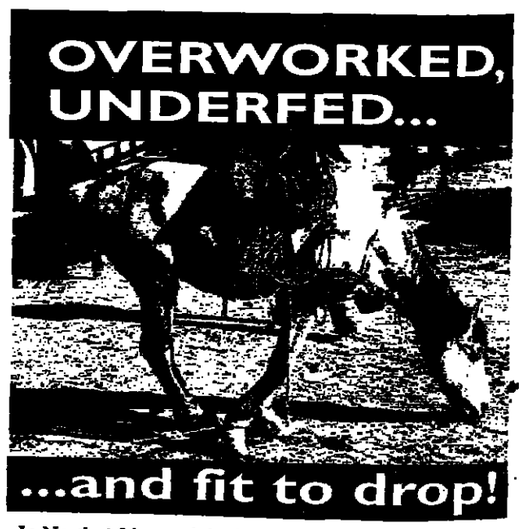
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Bitter Tory losers blame 'arrogant' leaders

TORY councillors were shattered yesterday after a night of slaughter at the hands of a furious electorate.

Within hours of the results, *The Times* talked to 227 defeated Tory councillors from 62 authorities around the country asking them whether John Major should be replaced as party leader, who should replace him and which aspect of the Government's performance or which policy they most blamed for the debacle.

As councillors cleared their desks, they were divided between those who, like the voters, wanted to wreak revenge on the Tory hierarchy and John Major and the staunchly loyal who could not believe what had happened and were desperate to prevent a bloodbath.

Councillors reeled off a litany of reasons for the rout. Only a handful mentioned local issues. Most laid the blame squarely on an ineffective, arrogant and out-of-touch Cabinet who did not understand the pressures of middle-class life and had loose tongues. Mr Major was considered a nice chap but not up to the job.

Few wanted to get rid of him immediately because they could think of no obvious replacement who would be able to unite the party.

However, 49 defeated councillors said Mr Major should go this year. Several were so despondent that they thought it would make no difference who led the party. Others were so jaded that, nationally, they said the Tories would benefit from a period in Opposition and a fresh start with a new younger leader in two years.

The majority, 175, said the Tories could not risk losing even more respect from the electorate with another catfight for Number 10.

Of those who expressed a preference, Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, was the clear leader with 25 votes. Several others said he would make a good consolidator should the vacancy arise.

Four mentioned Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, as a safe pair of hands, and Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary got one vote, as did Douglas Hurd the Foreign Secretary. The Chancellor takes much of the blame. Kenneth Clarke receives little credit for turning round the economy; instead, the defeated Tories see him as gaffe-prone, sloppy and arrogant. Only one person saw him as a future leader.

Many councillors wanted Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman, to resign. Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, is also reviled and is blamed for botched health reforms, clashes with the nurses, and seen as too bossy.

Michael Portillo was mentioned twice as a future leadership contender although there was concern that his views on Europe were divisive and that he lacked understanding of the "ordinary man." John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary also got one vote.

One defeated Tory said Elizabeth Hurley could do a better job of running the country than Mr Major.

The defeated councillors agreed that voters had taken account neither local issues nor council's records in office; but many councillors said that was the Government's fault, for devaluing local democracy over the years.

A few blamed "whingeing" voters for being so fickle and said that, no matter what they did as Conservative councillors, they got the blame for everything.

Councillors cannot understand what has happened to the elusive "feel-good" factor when, for the first election in four years, the recession has not been a big consideration.

[illegible]

This was the big complaint, with nearly two-thirds of councillors blaming the Government's "atrocious" PR record. Many could not understand why the Government was letting Labour win the propaganda war so easily. Most could list a series of Government botches. Councillors saw Mr Hanley as a buffoon. Many cited this week's U-turn on tax as the last straw.

[illegible]

This was singled out more than any other issue, with councillors saying that the Tories had messed around with it for too long and that this was one area where money needed to be spent.

INCOMPETENCE

Twenty-six defeated councillors said that ministers and Euro-sceptics were too self-centred and wanted to further their career and interests at the expense of the party.

Twenty councillors said the party no longer had a high enough calibre of that Conservative ministers were no longer of sufficient calibre.

HEALTH

Forty-five councillors said the Government's policy on reform of the NHS was botched and said Mrs Bottomley had been unable to control the way the nurses' pay award had been handled. In areas with high numbers of retired voters, defeated councillors were more angry about prescription charges.

EUROPE

The former councillors were less concerned about Europe than their squabbling MPs. In pockets of the country, like Devon and Cornwall where fishing has been a real issue, there is concern over the European Union fishing policy, several said the Government could win the next general election if it fought on an anti-Europe ticket.

SLEAZE

The series of ministerial resignations, and allegations about sexual or other misconduct, were blamed by six people. Twelve said that, by contrast, Tony Blair looked a model of decorum and his new-look party was a serious threat.

Finally the media was blamed for having created a self-fulfilling prophecy by writing beforehand that the election would be a Tory disaster.

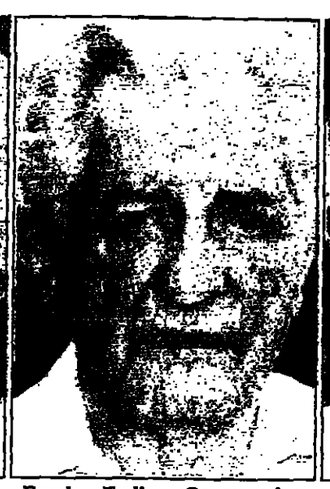
■ **Times reporting team: Alice Thomson, Ian Murray, Paul Wilkinson, Kate Alderson, James Landale, Marianne Curphey, Ed Gorman, Marianne Darch, Andrew Pierce.**



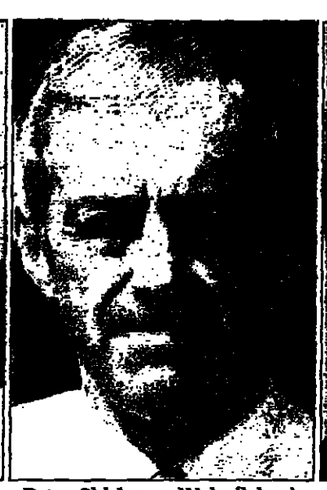
David McVicar, who lost his seat on South Beds District Council: "The disagreement between the Prime Minister and Chancellor on taxation, 24 hours before a key election, was the headbutt which finished it all. I would vote for Michael Heseltine as the figure people could rally round"



Joan Selby, who survived a Tory rout at Castle Point, Essex: "Something has to change if we are to stand any chance of winning the next election. If it's necessary to have a new leader, the powers that be will see that happens. As far as I can see there is nobody who stands out"



Frank Eadie, Conservative group leader at Trafford metropolitan borough, the regional flagship over which the party lost absolute control: "I do not put it down to the local party. It's simply time for our leader to begin acting like a Tory"



Peter Shirley, a Walsall businessman, lost his council seat after eight years: "I never thought John Major should have been leader — he hasn't got the intellectual or leadership ability and nobody knows what he stands for. Just look at Jeremy Hanley — was that a joke when he was appointed?"



Anne Underwood, who kept her seat at Sutton Coldfield: "I hope central government has now got the message that people are still worried about VAT on fuel and the way members of the party are constantly falling out with each other. Mr Clarke should be ditched. He is a liability"

THE TORY LEADERSHIP QUESTION

LEADERSHIP	
Major should stay	175
Major should go	49
Don't know	3
OF THOSE WHO WANT LABOUR TO GO	
Heseltine	25
Portillo	8
Thatcher	7
Shephard	4
Redwood, Dorrell, Hurd, Clarke, Elizabeth Hurley	1 each

ISSUES BLAMED FOR DEFEAT	
Bad PR (Banana skins etc)	146
Central govt incompetence	66
Education	53
Ministers lost touch with grassroots	46
Health	45
VAT on fuel and taxation	32
Privatisation/ unwanted tax cuts	23
Europe	15
Tony Blair factor	12
Sleaze factor	6

Results of 227 interviews with Conservative councillors from 62 authorities

Essex anger is strongest

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

ESSEX councillors, once the bedrock of Thatcherite Britain, were the most vicious in their condemnation of John Major. From Chelmsford to Castlepoint and Basildon, defeated councillors vented their frustrations and criticised the Government.

In Trafford, the last Tory metropolitan borough to fall, defeated councillors blamed a stream of sleaze and the fact that one of their MPs was Winston Churchill, who has been criticised for accepting lottery money for his grandfather's papers.

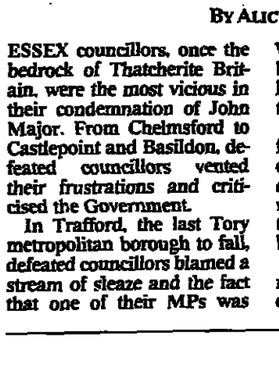
The bluntest criticism came from the North East, whose councillors want a tough leader and a Government that is not constantly forced into U-turns. They apportion equal blame to the Eurosceptics.

In Norfolk, they wanted ministers to start using their common sense. In Devon, the fishing wars were seen as a major problem, as were Euro-regulations and unfair increases in water prices.

In the South, councillors blamed VAT on fuel and even the Government's reticence about helping war widows.

Only one councillor blamed himself. Roy Morris, defending a seat in Christchurch, said the Government could not be held responsible for his political demise.

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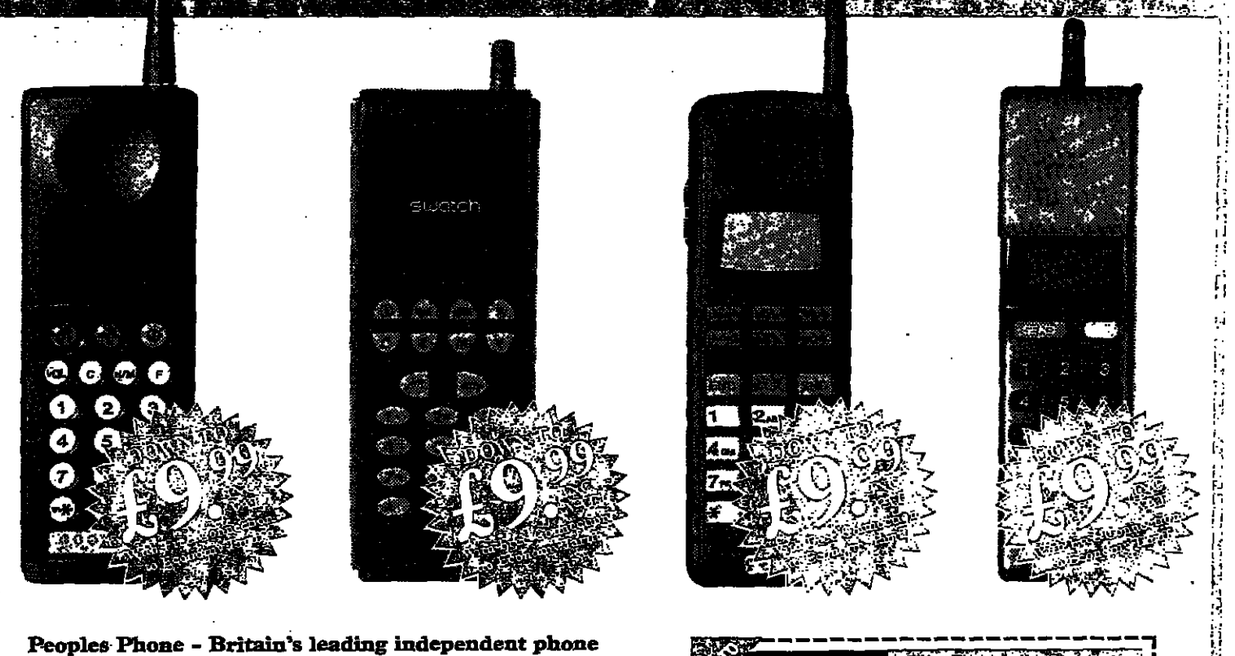
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Tories feeling the strain after so long in office

Result bears out Blair's claim that Labour is winning back voters' trust

RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

The Tory party was stunned yesterday. It was not just the scale of the losses — far worse than previous mid-term setbacks. Expectations had been reduced so much beforehand that there was little surprise. Rather, the mood was fatalistic that the party may be doomed to electoral defeat and there is little that can be done. The reactions of even usually rebellious MPs were limited to echoing the "backs to the wall" statement of John Major.

The numbness may wear off after the VE-Day weekend when MPs have talked to their defeated former councillors. There could be a fractious few weeks ahead. And, however pessimistic MPs may be about their party's prospects, they will be looking for ways of saving their own seats. Although predictions could easily be falsified in such a volatile situation, the odds are still against any early leadership challenge — in face of the refusal of the 1922 Committee executive to change the rules about holding a ballot only in the autumn and the reluctance of many on the right to have Michael Heseltine as leader.

Mr Major's critics are focusing not on the party conference, when there should be the usual display of formal unity, but later, in November, when the Commons has returned and a contest can occur. That is when Mr Major will be most at risk. Many Tory MPs regard such speculation as not just damaging but as a distraction. Their conclusion from canvassing is that the public is fed up with the Tories. No single issue or personality is to blame, but rather a sense that it is time for a change. Many defeated councillors cited in today's survey by *The Times* refer to the impression of Government incompetence, lack of direction and disunity.

Thursday's verdict was unambiguous. Forget the silly extrapolations about how many MPs might lose their seats. The raw figures are bad enough. The situation is worse than previous mid-term low points. In 1990, it was easy to point to the poll tax and the unpopularity of Margaret Thatcher. There is no parallel to the poll tax now and Mr Major is less unpopular than the Government. There is little chance of any early improvement. The Tories face further loses in next year's local elections since comparison will be with the post-election high point of May 1992.

Labour is also in a much stronger position than before. In the past, Labour has underperformed its poll ratings and was unable to get above a 42 to 43 per cent share of the vote, at most. On Thursday, it achieved 48 per cent, winning seats and councils never before captured. Tony Blair and John Prescott could not talk about "Labour Hove" with a straight face. Admittedly, many traditional Tory supporters may have stayed at home on Thursday and will return to the fold at the general election. But many may not, and some have already switched to Labour. This bears out Mr Blair's claim that his "new" Labour party has begun to win back the trust of voters. He was characteristically cautious yesterday, warning aginst complacency and telling the hundreds of new councillors that they would be providing the public's first experience of Labour in government. The leadership will be keeping a close eye on any local excesses or lunacies.

The Liberal Democrats advanced in their strongholds of the South West and in the small towns of southern England, even though their challenge to Labour in urban areas was blunted. So instead of benefiting from a split in the opposition vote, as they have since the early 1980s, the Tories face their nightmare of separate challenges from Labour and the Liberal Democrats. The two parties now complement rather than undermine each other. Paddy Ashdown has shown that his party can survive, and prosper locally despite the Blair effect. There will now be a debate about how far the Liberal Democrats should present themselves as a potential ally of Labour in government.

The results may, in a contradictory way, stimulate the pressure both for tax cuts and for increased public spending, to deal with complaints about school budgets. But the Chancellor is tightly constrained. Kenneth Clarke may find that yesterday's unexpected decision to leave interest rates unchanged could backfire with the markets if rates have to be raised in a few weeks and if it emerges that the Governor of the Bank favoured a rise now.

The Tories' problem is simple. It does not lie in familiar complaints about presentation, drift or even disunity. These are symptoms. The party is suffering from having been in office for so long. Mr Major has already checked the forces of political mortality once, at the 1992 election. But the ageing process cannot be delayed for ever.

PETER RIDDELL

COMPLETE LIST OF RESULTS FROM THURSDAY'S COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The following are the local government election results held on Thursday.

NON-METROPOLITAN COUNCILS

ADUR: LD no change
LD 13, Lab 2, LD gain 4, C lose 6, Lab gain 2. New council: LD 29, C 5, Lab 3, Ind 2.

ALLERDALE: Lab no change
Lab gain 7, Ind lose 3, C lose 5, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 37, Ind 8, C 6, LD 4.

ALNWICK: LD lose to NOC
LD lose 5, Ind gain 2, Lab gain 5, C lose 2. New council: LD 11, Ind 9, Lab 7, C 2.

AMBER VALLEY: Lab no change
Lab 14, C 3, Lab gain 6, C lose 5, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 30, C 10, Ind 3.

ARUN: C no change
C lose 6, LD gain 1, Lab gain 4, Ind gain 1. New council: C 29, LD 14, Lab 10, Ind 3.

ASHFIELD: Lab no change
Lab gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 33.

ASHFORD: C lose to NOC
C lose 9, LD gain 2, Lab gain 7. New council: C 18, LD 15, Lab 13, Ind 1, Others 2.

AYLESBURY VALE: LD gain from NOC
LD gain 9, C lose 15, Ind gain 2, Lab gain 4. New council: LD 33, C 12, Ind 8, Lab 5.

BABERGH: NOC no change
Ind gain 3, Lab gain 6, C lose 7, LD gain 2, Others lose 4. New council: Ind 12, Lab 12, C 9, LD 7, Others 2.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS: Lab no change
Lab 12, C 1, Lab gain 6, C lose 5, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 30, C 7, Ind 1.

BASILDON: NOC no change
Lab 8, LD 6, Lab gain 3, C lose 7, LD gain 4. New council: Lab 16, C 14, LD 12.

BASINGSTOKE & DEANE: NOC no change
C 8, LD 4, Lab 6, Ind 1, C lose 3, LD gain 2, Lab gain 2, Ind lose 1. New council: C 25, LD 15, Lab 13, Ind 4.

BASSETLAW: Lab no change
Lab 13, C 2, Ind 2, Lab gain 3, C lose 4, Ind gain 1. New council: Lab 33, C 12, Ind 3, LD 2.

BEDFORD: NOC no change
Lab 8, C 4, LD 4, Ind 1, Lab gain 4, C lose 6, LD gain 1, Ind gain 1. New council: Lab 20, C 16, LD 12, Ind 5.

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED: NOC no change
Ind gain 1, LD gain 1, C lose 3, Lab gain 1. New council: Ind 12, LD 12, C 2, Lab 2.

BLABY: C lose to NOC
Lab gain 15, C lose 17, LD gain 3, Ind lose 3, Others gain 2. New council: Lab 16, C 13, LD 8, Others 2.

BLACKBURN: Lab no change
Lab 17, C 3, Lab gain 4, C lose 2, LD lose 1, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 42, C 15, LD 3.

BLACKPOOL: Lab no change
Lab gain 12, LD lose 3, C lose 9. New council: Lab 39, LD 3, C 2.

BLYTH VALLEY: Lab no change
Lab gain 10, LD lose 10. New council: Lab 40, LD 7.

BOLSOVER: Lab no change
R lose 1, Ind gain 1. New council: Lab 35, R 1, Ind 1.

BOSTON: NOC no change
Lab gain 7, C lose 7. New council: Lab 15, LD 8, Ind 6, C 5.

BOURNEMOUTH: NOC no change
LD gain 1, Ind lose 1. New council: LD 26, C 21, Lab 6, Ind 4.

BRACKNELL FOREST: Lab C
Lab gain 15, C lose 20, LD gain 5. New council: Lab 22, C 12, LD 6.

BRAINTREE: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 16, C lose 15, LD gain 1, R lose 2. New council: Lab 37, C 10, LD 6, Ind 5, R 2.

BRECKLAND: C lose to NOC
Lab gain 17, C lose 13, Ind lose 4, LD lose 1, Green gain 1. New council: Lab 25, C 19, Ind 7, LD 1, Green 1.

BRENTWOOD: LD no change
LD 9, C 4. New council: LD 25, C 12, Ind 1, Lab 1.

BRIDGNORTH: Ind no change
Ind gain 3, Lab gain 5, LD gain 1, C lose 9. New council: Ind 20, Lab 6, LD 4, C 3.

BRIGHTON: Lab no change
Lab 13, C 3, Lab gain 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 29, C 19.

BROADLAND: NOC no change
C 2, LD 2, Lab 10, Ind 2, C lose 2, LD lose 2, Lab gain 7, Ind lose 3. New council: C 18, LD 14, Lab 13, Ind 4.

BROMSGROVE (boundary change): Lab C
New council: Lab 24, C 12, LD 3.

BROXBOURNE: C no change
C 6, Lab 8, LD 1, C lose 5, Lab gain 5. New council: C 27, Lab 11, LD 4.

BROXTOWE: Lab C
Lab gain 21, C lose 20, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 36, C 7, LD 5, Ind 1.

BURNLEY: Lab no change
Lab 12, LD 3, Ind 1, Lab gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 34, LD 10, C 3, Ind 1.

CAMBRIDGE: NOC no change
Lab 8, LD 6, Lab gain 1, LD gain 2, C lose 3. New council: Lab 20, LD 18, C 4.

CANNOCK CHASE: Lab no change
Lab 14, Lab gain 5, C lose 3, LD lose 2. New council: Lab 36, C 5, LD 1.

CANTERBURY: NOC no change
LD gain 1, Lab gain 7, C lose 7, Ind lose 1. New council: LD 24, Lab 15, C 10.

CARADON: Ind lose to NOC
Ind lose 3, LD gain 8, R lose 1, Lab gain 1, C lose 5. New council: Ind 18, LD 18, R 2, Lab 2, C 1.

CARLISLE: Lab no change
Lab 12, C 4, LD 1, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 30, C 17, LD 3, Ind 1.

CARRICK: NOC no change
LD gain 1, Ind lose 3, Lab gain 4, C lose 2. New council: LD 21, Ind 9, Lab 8, C 7.

CASTLE MORPETH: NOC no change
Lab gain 3, Ind gain 1, C lose 1, LD lose 1, Others lose 2. New council: Lab 12, Ind 10, C 6, LD 6.

CASTLE POINT: Lab C
Lab gain 30, C lose 30. New council: Lab 34, C 5.

CHARNWOOD: Lab C
Lab gain 15, C lose 17, LD gain 1, Ind gain 1. New council: Lab 30, C 15, LD 5, Ind 2.

CHELMSFORD: LD gain from NOC
LD gain 10, C lose 15, Lab gain 5. New council: LD 32, C 13, Lab 7, Ind 4.

CHELTENHAM: LD no change
LD 13, Lab 1, Others 1, LD gain 3, C lose 3. New council: LD 29, C 7, Lab 2, Others 3.

CHERWELL: C lose to NOC
C 3, Lab 11, LD 4, C lose 8, Lab gain 6, LD gain 3, Ind lose 1. New council: C 23, Lab 22, LD 7.

CHESTER: NOC no change
Lab 8, C 6, LD 5, Ind 1, Lab gain 4, C lose 3, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 23, C 19, LD 16, Ind 2.

CHESTERFIELD: Lab no change
Lab gain 6, LD lose 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 37, LD 10.

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Lab no change
Lab gain 3, Ind lose 3. New council: Lab 30, Ind 1, C 1, LD 1.

CHICHESTER: C lose to NOC
LD gain 10, C lose 12, Ind gain 1, Lab gain 1. New council: LD 25, C 20, Ind 4, Lab 1.

CHILTERN: C lose to NOC
LD gain 15, C lose 17, Ind gain 1, Lab gain 1. New council: LD 24, C 22, R 2, Ind 1, Lab 1.

CHORLEY: Lab gain from NOC
Lab 14, LD 3, Lab gain 7, C lose 8, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 28, C 13, LD 6, Ind 1.

CHRISTCHURCH: NOC no change
LD gain 8, C lose 4, Ind lose 4. New council: LD 10, C 8, Ind 7.

COLCHESTER: LD no change
LD 10, C 3, Lab 7, LD gain 1, C lose 4, Lab gain 3. New council: LD 34, C 13, Lab 12, R 1.

CONGLETON: LD no change
LD 8, C 2, Lab 5, LD lose 1, C lose 3, Lab gain 4. New council: LD 26, C 10, Lab 9.

COPELAND: Lab no change
Lab gain 8, C lose 7, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 37, C 12, Ind 2.

CORBY: Lab no change
Lab gain 1, LD gain 1, C lose 1, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 24, LD 2, C 1.

COTSWOLD: Ind no change
Ind gain 12, LD gain 3, Lab gain 4, C lose 6, Others lose 13. New council: Ind 28, LD 9, Lab 5, C 3.

CRAVEN: NOC no change
LD 6, C 1, Ind 2, Lab 3, LD gain 3, C lose 5, Lab gain 2. New council: LD 17, C 6, Ind 6, Lab 5.

CRAWLEY: Lab no change
Lab 10, LD 1, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 26, C 4, LD 2.

CREWE & NANTWICH: Lab no change
Lab 13, C 5, LD 1, Lab gain 4, C lose 4. New council: Lab 33, C 21, LD 3.

DACORUM: Lab C
Lab gain 17, C lose 18, LD lose 1, Ind gain 2. New council: Lab 33, C 19, LD 4, Ind 2.

DARLINGTON: Lab no change
Lab gain 5, C lose 3, Ind lose 2. New council: Lab 35, C 14, LD 2, Ind 1.

DARTFORD: Lab C
Lab gain 16, C lose 15, Ind gain 1, R lose 2. New council: Lab 36, C 10, Ind 1.

DAVENTRY: C lose to NOC
C 4, Lab 6, Ind 1, LD 2, C lose 3, Lab gain 3. New council: C 15, Lab 15, Ind 3, LD 2.

DERBY: Lab no change
Lab 14, LD 1, Lab gain 5, C lose 6, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 30, C 12, LD 2.

DERBYSHIRE DALES: C lose to NOC
LD gain 6, C lose 10, Lab gain 4. New council: LD 16, C 15, Lab 8.

DERWENTSIDE: Lab no change
Lab gain 11, Ind lose 9, C lose 2. New council: Lab 50, Ind 5.

DOVER: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 17, C lose 14, LD lose 2, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 39, C 13, LD 4.

DURHAM CITY: Lab no change
Lab gain 9, LD lose 7, Ind lose 2. New council: Lab 38, LD 7, Ind 4.

EASINGTON: Lab no change
Lab gain 2, Ind lose 1, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 44, Ind 4, LD 3.

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE: Ind no change
Ind lose 1, LD gain 5, Lab gain 2, C lose 6. New council: Ind 22, LD 12, Lab 3.

EAST DEVON: C lose to NOC
C lose 11, LD gain 7, Ind gain 4, Green lose 1, Others gain 1. New council: C 30, LD 20, Ind 9, Others 1.

EAST DORSET: LD gain from NOC
LD gain 9, C lose 5, R lose 2, Others lose 2. New council: LD 23, C 13.

EAST HAMPSHIRE: LD no change
LD gain 4, C lose 2, Ind lose 2. New council: LD 26, C 12, Ind 4.

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE: C lose to NOC
C lose 11, LD gain 6, Lab gain 6, Ind lose 1. New council: C 23, LD 16, Lab 8, Ind 2, R 1.

EAST LINDSEY: Ind no change
Ind lose 6, Lab gain 10, LD lose 1, Green gain 2, C lose 5. New council: Ind 38, Lab 15, LD 3, Green 3, C 1.

EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: Lab C
Lab gain 16, C lose 15, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 25, C 9, LD 2.

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 13, C lose 2, Ind lose 9, LD lose 2. New council: Lab 36, C 4, Ind 3, LD 3.

EASTBOURNE: LD no change
LD 9, C 2, LD gain 2, C lose 2. New council: LD 21, C 9.

EASTLEIGH: LD no change
LD 10, C 2, Lab 3, LD gain 5, C lose 5. New council: LD 28, C 13, Lab 3.

EDEN: Ind no change
Ind lose 2, Lab gain 2. New council: Ind 31, LD 4, Lab 2.

ELLESMERE PORT & NESTON: Lab no change
Lab 12, C 2, Lab gain 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 33, C 8.

ELMBRIDGE: NOC no change
R 7, C 5, LD 3, Lab 4, Ind 1, R gain 2, C lose 2, LD lose 1, Lab gain 1. New council: R 22, C 20, LD 9, Lab 8, Ind 1.

EPPING FOREST: NOC no change
C 3, Lab 7, R 2, LD 6, Ind 2, C lose 6, Lab gain 2, LD gain 4, Ind gain 1, Soc Dem lose 1. New council: C 20, Lab 16, R 10, LD 10, Ind 2, Soc Dem 1.

EPSOM & EWELL: R no change
R gain 3, LD lose 3. New council: R 33, LD 3, Lab 3.

EREWASH: Lab no change
Lab gain 13, C lose 13, LD lose 1, Ind gain 1. New council: Lab 40, C 8, LD 2, Ind 2.

EXETER: Lab gain from NOC
Lab 8, C 1, LD 2, Lib 1, Lab gain 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 19, C 9, LD 6, Lib 2.

FAREHAM: NOC no change
LD 6, C 5, Lab 4, LD gain 4, C lose 3, Lab gain 3, Others lose 4. New council: LD 19, C 11, Lab 5, Ind 2, Others 5.

FENLAND: Lab C
Lab gain 15, C lose 12, Ind lose 1, LD lose 2. New council: Lab 21, C 14, Ind 3, LD 2.

FOREST HEATH: C lose to NOC
C lose 7, LD gain 3, Ind gain 1, Lab gain 3. New council: C 10, LD 6, Ind 5, Lab 4.

FOREST OF DEAN: Lab no change
Lab gain 4, Ind gain 4, LD lose 2, C lose 2, Others lose 4. New council: Lab 30, Ind 12, LD 5, C 1, Others 1.

FYLDE: NOC no change
C lose 5, R gain 1, Lab gain 5, LD lose 1. New council: C 18, Ind 11, R 10, Lab 6, LD 4.

GEDLING: Lab C
Lab gain 14, C lose 18, LD gain 4. New council: Lab 29, C 20, LD 7, Ind 1.

GILLINGHAM: LD gain from NOC
LD 10, Lab 4, LD gain 4, Lab gain 1, C lose 5. New council: LD 24, Lab 9, C 8, Ind 1.

GLOUCESTER: Lab gain from NOC
Lab 10, LD 3, Lab gain 3, LD gain 1, C lose 4. New council: Lab 20, LD 8, C 7.

GOSPORT: LD no change
LD 6, C 1, Lab 2, Ind 1, LD gain 2, C lose 2, Lab gain 1, Ind lose 1. New council: LD 18, C 5, Lab 5, Ind 2.

GRAVESHAM: Lab no change
Lab gain 11, C lose 11. New council: Lab 34, C 10.

GREAT YARMOUTH: Lab no change
Lab 15, C 2, Lab gain 6, C lose 5, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 33, C 14, LD 1.

GUILDFORD: LD gain from NOC
LD gain 5, C lose 7, Ind gain 2. New council: LD 23, C 13, Lab 6, Ind 3.

HALTON: Lab no change
Lab 17, LD 2, Lab gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 45, LD 7, C 1.

HAMBLETON: C lose to NOC
C lose 3, Ind gain 6, Lab gain 2, LD lose 2, Soc Dem lose 3. New council: C 21, Ind 19, Lab 4, LD 3.

HARBOROUGH: C lose to NOC
LD gain 2, C lose 7, Lab gain 5, Ind lose 2, Others gain 2. New council: LD 13, C 12, Lab 8, Ind 2, Others 2.

HARLOW: Lab no change
Lab 15, LD 1, Lab gain 4, C lose 4. New council: Lab 37, LD 3, C 2.

HARROGATE: LD no change
LD 17, C 3, Lab 1, LD gain 4, C lose 4. New council: LD 41, C 15, Ind 2, Lab 2.

HART: NOC no change
LD 7, C 5, Ind 4, C lose 2, Ind gain 2. New council: LD 14, C 11, Ind 10.

HASTINGS: NOC no change
LD 5, Lab 5, LD gain 2, Lab gain 1, C lose 3. New council: LD 14, Lab 12, C 5, Ind 1.

HAVANT: NOC no change
LD 5, C 3, Lab 4, Ind 2, LD gain 4, C lose 4. New council: LD 15, C 12, Lab 12, Ind 3.

HEREFORD: LD no change
LD 8, Lab 1. New council: LD 22, Lab 4, C 1.

HERTSMERE: NOC no change
Lab 12, C 1, LD 1, Lab gain 5, C lose 5. New council: Lab 19, C 14, LD 5, Ind 1.

HIGH PEAK: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 13, C lose 9, LD lose 5, Ind gain 1. New council: Lab 30, C 5, LD 5, Ind 4.

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH: C lose to NOC
LD gain 7, Lab gain 8, C lose 15. New council: LD 16, Lab 13, C 5.

HORSHAM: LD C
LD gain 10, C lose 10. New council: LD 24, C 17, Ind 2.

HOVE: Lab C
Lab gain 10, C lose 10. New council: Lab 16, C 11, LD 3.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE: C no change
C 9, LD 5, Lab 4, Ind 1, C lose 5, LD gain 2, Lab gain 3. New council: C 31, LD 14, Lab 7, Ind 1.

HYNDBURN: Lab no change
Lab 16, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 36, C 10, LD 1.

IPSWICH: Lab no change
Lab 14, C 2, Lab gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Lab 36, C 11, LD 1.

KENNET: NOC no change
Ind lose 1, C lose 8, Lab gain 7, LD gain 2. New council: Ind 14, C 9, Lab 9, LD 8.

KERRIER: NOC no change
Ind gain 2, Lab gain 4, LD lose 4, C lose 3, Others gain 1. New council: Ind 15, Lab 14, LD 13, C 1, Others 1.

KETTERING: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 15, C lose 6, LD lose 5, Ind lose 4. New council: Lab 33, C 6, LD 3, Ind 3.

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK: Lab C
Lab gain 21, C lose 24, LD gain 1, Ind gain 2. New council: Lab 37, C 14, LD 6, Ind 3.

LANCASTER: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 10, C lose 3, Ind lose 4, LD lose 3. New council: Lab 34, C 11, Ind 10, LD 5.

LEICESTER: Lab no change
Lab gain 8, C lose 8. New council: Lab 45, LD 7, C 4.

LEOMINSTER: NOC no change
Ind 6, LD 3, Lab 2, Green 1, C lose 1, Lab gain 1. New council: Ind 17, LD 7, C 5, Lab 3, Green 1, Others 3.

LEWES: LD no change
LD gain 3, C lose 4, Lab gain 2, Ind lose 2, R gain 1. New council: LD 28, C 16, Lab 2, Ind 1, R 1.

LICHFIELD: Lab C
Lab gain 17, C lose 16, LD gain 2, Ind lose 4, Others gain 1. New council: Lab 34, C 19, LD 2, Others 1.

LINCOLN: Lab no change
Lab 11, Lab gain 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 31, C 2.

LUTON: Lab no change
Lab gain 10, C lose 7, Ind lose 2, Green lose 1. New council: Lab 37, LD 9, C 2.

MACCLESFIELD: C no change
C 11, LD 3, Lab 5, R 1, C gain 1, LD lose 2, Lab gain 1. New council: C 33, LD 13, Lab 11, R 3.

MAIDSTONE: NOC no change
C 4, LD 7, Lab 7, Ind 1, C lose 3, Lab gain 4, Others lose 1. New council: C 17, LD 17, Lab 15, Ind 5, Others 1.

MALDON: NOC no change
C lose 1, Ind lose 2, Lab gain 6, LD lose 3. New council: C 12, Ind 10, Lab 7, LD 1.

MALVERN HILLS: NOC no change
LD gain 5, Ind gain 2, C lose 9, Green gain 2. New council: LD 21, Ind 19, C 6, Green 3, Lab 2.

MANSFIELD: Lab no change
Lab gain 6, C lose 4, LD lose 2. New council: Lab 45, C 1.

MELTON: C lose to NOC
LD gain 1, C lose 9, Lab gain 5, Ind gain 3. New council: LD 9, C 8, Lab 5, Ind 4.

MENDIP: NOC no change
Lab gain 6, C lose 4, Ind lose 4, R gain 2. New council: LD 21, Lab 9, C 8, Ind 3, R 2.

MID BEDFORDSHIRE: C lose to NOC
C lose 15, Lab gain 17, Ind lose 3, LD gain 1. New council: C 21, Lab 21, Ind 6, LD 5.

MID DEVON: LD Ind
LD gain 12, Ind lose 11, Soc Dem lose 1. New council: LD 21, Ind 17, Lab 1, Lib 1.

MID SUFFOLK: NOC no change
Lab gain 8, LD gain 1, C lose 9. New council: Lab 17, LD 12, C 6, Ind 5.

MID SUSSEX: LD C
LD gain 14, C lose 16, Lab gain 2. New council: LD 28, C 18, Ind 4, Lab 4.

MILTON KEYNES: NOC no change
Lab 8, LD 5, C 2, Ind 1, Lab gain 2, LD gain 1, C lose 3. New council: Lab 22, LD 12, C 10, Ind 2.

MOLE VALLEY: LD lose to NOC
LD 4, C 5, Ind 4, Lab 1, LD lose 1, Lab gain 1. New council: LD 20, C 11, Ind 8, Lab 2.

NEW FOREST: LD no change
LD gain 2, C gain 1, Ind lose 3. New council: LD 32, C 23, Ind 3.

NEWARK & SHERWOOD: Lab no change
Lab gain 9, C lose 8, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 37, C 10, LD 5, Ind 2.

NEWBURY: LD no change
LD gain 13, C lose 11, Ind lose 1, Lab lose 1. New council: LD 37, C 7, Ind 1.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME: Lab no change
Lab 15, LD 3, C 2, Lab gain 4, LD lose 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 37, LD 12, C 7.

NORTH CORNWALL: Ind no change
Ind lose 3, LD gain 5, Lab lose 2. New council: Ind 25, LD 12, C 1.

NORTH DEVON: LD no change
Ind gain 2, C lose 2. New council: LD 30, Ind 13, C 1.

NORTH DORSET: LD Ind
LD gain 6, Ind lose 8, C gain 1, Lab gain 1. New council: LD 19, Ind 12, C 1, Lab 1.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE: C lose to NOC
C 4, Lab 9, LD 3, Ind 1, C lose 3, Lab gain 3, LD gain 1, R lose 1. New council: C 22, Lab 21, LD 6, Ind 1.

NORTH KESTEVEN: NOC no change
Lab gain 8, Ind lose 2, LD gain 2, C lose 8. New council: Lab 15, Ind 12, LD 8, C 4.

NORTH NORFOLK: NOC no change
Lab gain 13, LD gain 5, Ind lose 6, C lose 12. New council: Lab 19, LD 12, Ind 11, C 4.

NORTH SHROPSHIRE: Ind no change
Ind lose 1, Lab gain 2, C lose 2, LD gain 1. New council: Ind 28, Lab 7, C 3, Vac 1, LD 1.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE: Lab no change
Lab gain 9, C lose 8, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 29, C 4, Ind 1.

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE: Lab no change
Lab gain 9, C lose 7, Ind lose 2. New council: Lab 35, C 3, Ind 2.

NORTH WILTSHIRE: LD no change
C lose 2, Lab gain 3, Ind lose 1. New council: LD 30, C 12, Lab 6, Ind 4.

NORTHAMPTON: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 13, LD gain 3, C lose 16. New council: Lab 34, LD 8, C 1.

NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE: Lab no change
Lab gain 11, C lose 8, Ind lose 3. New council: Lab 45, C 4, LD 3, Ind 1.

NORWICH: Lab no change
Lab 13, LD 3, Lab gain 2, LD lose 1, C lose 1. New council: Lab 37, LD 10, C 1.

NOTTINGHAM: Lab no change
Lab gain 14, LD gain 2, C lose 16. New council: Lab 51, LD 2, C 1, Green 1.

NUNEATON & BEDWORTH: Lab no change
Lab 15, C 1, Lab gain 2, C lose 2. New council: Lab 39, C 6.

OADBY & WIGSTON: LD no change
LD gain 6, C lose 6. New council: LD 25, C 1.

OSWESTRY: Ind no change
Ind gain 1, Lab gain 1, C lose 2. New council: Ind 15, Lab 7, LD 4, C 2, Vac 1.

OXFORD: Lab no change
Lab 14, LD 3, Lab gain 2, LD gain 1, C lose 3. New council: Lab 38, LD 8, C 4, Green 1.

PENDLE: LD gain from NOC
LD 12, Lab 5, LD gain 5, Lab lose 3, C lose 2. New council: LD 26, Lab 20, C 5.

PENWITH: NOC no change
LD 4, C 3, Ind 3, Lab 2, LD gain 2, C lose 1, Others lose 1. New council: LD 11, C 9, Ind 7, Lab 6, Others 1.

PETERBOROUGH: NOC no change
Lab 11, C 4, Ind 1, Lab gain 4, C lose 2, Lib lose 2. New council: Lab 22, C 19, Lib 3, Ind 3, LD 1.

PLYMOUTH: Lab no change
Lab gain 14, C lose 13, LD lose 1. New council: Lab 55, C 5.

POOLE: LD no change
LD lose 1, C lose 3, Lab gain 4. New council: LD 19, C 13, Lab 4.

PORTSMOUTH: Lab gain from NOC
Lab 7, C 3, LD 3, Lab gain 4, C lose 4. New council: Lab 20, C 10, LD 9.

PRESTON: Lab no change
Lab 11, C 5, LD 3, C lose 1, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 31, C 18, LD 8.

PURBECK: NOC no change
LD 3, Ind 1, Lab 3, LD gain 2, C lose 5, Lab gain 3. New council: LD 10, Ind 5, C 4, Lab 3.

READING: Lab no change
Lab 13, C 1, LD 2, Lab gain 3, C lose 4, LD gain 1. New council: Lab 32, C 8, LD 5.

REDDITCH: Lab no change
Lab 10, Lab gain 4, C lose 4. New council: Lab 23, C 5, LD 1.

REIGATE & BANSTEAD: NOC no change
C 6, LD 5, Lab 5, R 1, Ind 1, C lose 3, LD gain 1, Lab gain 1, Ind gain 1. New council: C 18, LD 14, Lab 12, R 3, Ind 2.

RESTORMEL: LD no change
LD gain 1, Ind lose 1, Lab gain 1, C lose 1. New council: LD 29, Ind 9, Vac 3, Lab 2, C 1.

RIBBLE VALLEY: C lose to NOC
C lose 4, LD gain 4. New council: C 19, LD 19, Lab 1.

RICHMONDSHIRE: Ind no change
Ind lose 5, LD gain 6, C lose 1. New council: Ind 23, LD 8, C 2, Soc Dem 1.

ROCHESTER-UPON-MEDWAY: Lab gain from NOC
Lab gain 23, LD lose 2, C lose 21. New council: Lab 44, LD 5, C 1.

ROCHFORD: LD no change
LD 8, Lab 3, C 1, Ind 1, LD gain 1, Lab gain 1, C lose 3, Ind gain 1. New council: LD 22, Lab 8, C 7, R 2, Ind 1.

ROSSENDALE: Lab no change
Lab 10, C 2, Lab gain 5, C lose 5. New council: Lab 25, C 11.

ROTHER: NOC no change
LD gain 5, C lose 4, Ind lose 3, Lab gain 2. New council: LD 21, C 14, Ind 5, Lab 5.

RUGBY: NOC no change
Lab 8, C 4, LD 2, Ind 3, Lab gain 3, C lose 4, R lose 3, LD gain 1, Ind gain 1. New council: Lab 19, C 15, R 5, LD 5, Ind 4.

RUNNYMEDE: C no change
C 7, Lab 5, R 2, C lose 3, Lab gain 3. New council: C 23, Lab 12, R 6, LD 1.

RUSHCLIFFE: C lose to NOC
C lose 17, Lab gain 12, LD gain 4, Ind gain 1. New council: C 26, Lab 17, LD 10, Ind 1.

RUSHMOOR: C lose to NOC
C 5, LD 5, Lab 5, C lose 5, LD gain 2, Lab gain 3. New council: C 18, LD 15, Lab 11, Ind 1.

RUTLAND: Ind gain from NOC
Ind gain 3, C lose 3. New council: Ind 12, C 4, LD 4.

RYEDALE: LD gain from NOC
LD 10, Ind 8, C 4, Lab 1, LD gain 5, Ind lose 4, C lose 1. New council: LD 25, Ind 10, C 5, Lab 2.

SALISBURY: LD from C
LD gain 20, Lab gain 5, C lose 22, Ind lose 3. New council: LD 31, Lab 11, C 8, Ind 7, Vac 1.

SCARBOROUGH: NOC no change
Lab gain 8, C lose 3, Ind lose 1, LD lose 4. New council: Lab 24, C 13, Ind 8, LD 4.

SEDGEFIELD: Lab no change
Lab gain 14, Ind lose 2, LD lose 10, C lose 2. New council: Lab 44, Vac 3, Ind 2.

SEDGEMOOR: C lose to NOC
C lose 5, Lab gain 1, LD gain 5, Ind lose 1. New council: C 21, Lab 13, LD 12, Ind 3.

SELBY: Lab gain from NOC
Lab 27, C 9, Ind 4, LD 1, Lab gain 17, C lose 10, Ind lose 5, LD lose 2. New council: Lab 29, C 12, Ind 8, LD 1.

SEVENOAKS: C lose to NOC
LD gain 9, C lose 14, Lab gain 10, Ind lose 5. New council: LD 20, C 17, Lab 11, Ind 5.

SHEPWAY: LD lose to NOC
LD lose 11, C lose 1, Lab gain 11, Ind gain 1. New council: LD 21, C 19, Lab 13, Ind 3.

SHREWSBURY & ATCHAM: NOC no change
Lab 8, LD 5, C 3, Ind 1, Lab gain 4, LD gain 2, C lose 5, Ind lose 1. New council: Lab 19, LD 13, C 11, Ind 5.

SLOUGH (boundary change): Lab no change
New council: Lab 30, Lib 4, C 3, Ind 2, LD 1.

SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE: C lose to NOC
C 2, Lab 10, LD 5, Ind 1, R 1, C lose 11, Lab gain 5, LD gain 4, Ind gain 1, R gain 1. New council: C 24, Lab 15, LD 11, Ind 2, R 1.

SOUTH BUCKS (boundary change): C lose to NOC
New council: C 19, Ind 16, LD 4, R 1.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE: NOC no change
Ind 9, C 4, LD 3, Lab 3, Ind gain 1, C lose 6, LD gain 3, Lab gain 2. New council: Ind 21, C 16, LD 10, Lab 6.

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE: Lab no change
Lab gain 7, C lose 5, Ind lose 2. New council: Lab 26, C 6, Ind 1, Vac 1.

SOUTH HAMS: C lose to NOC
C lose 8, Ind gain 1, LD gain 6, Lab gain 1. New council: C 17, Ind 15, LD 10, Lab 2.

SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE: Ind no change
Ind 10, LD 3, Ind lose 1, LD gain 2, C lose 1. New council: Ind 28, LD 9, C 1, R 1.

SOUTH HOLLAND: Ind no change
Ind lose 2, Lab gain 2. New council: Ind 20, Lab 11, C 7.

SOUTH KESTEVEN: NOC no change
Ind gain 7, Lab gain 4, C lose 10, LD lose 3, Lib gain 2. New council: Ind 18, Lab 17, C 13, LD 6, Lib 3.

SOUTH LAKELAND: NOC no change
LD 8, Ind 6, C 3, Lab 1, LD gain 2, Ind gain 1, C lose 3. New council: LD 21, Ind 14, C 11, Lab 6.

SOUTH NORFOLK: LD gain from NOC
LD gain 8, C lose 10, Lab gain 3, Ind lose 1. New council: LD 30, C 12, Lab 3, Ind 2.

SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: C lose to NOC
C lose 13, Lab gain 8, Ind lose 2, LD gain 7. New council: C

Thirty of party's 35 councillors swept from office at Castle Point to end 20 years of power

Essex revolution imposes worst defeat on Tories

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND JAMES LANDALE

LABOUR inflicted its most crushing defeat on the Conservatives at Castle Point in Essex, ending two decades of virtual one-party rule. Thirty out of 35 Tory councillors were swept from office.

The transformation of the political map of the South was completed yesterday when Labour captured Hove from the Tories for the first time in the 97 years of the council.

Labour went into the election at Castle Point, which comprises Canvey Island and Benfleet, with four councillors, its highest representation in the council's 20-year history. Today the Labour group is 34 strong, compared with the rump of five Tory councillors.

Tony Hurd, 58, the new Labour leader, said: "No wonder the Tories are scared. Essex man is no longer Tory. This landslide should measure ten on the Richter scale. It is beyond our wildest dreams. The Tories have paid the price of the John Major effect and their disastrous stewardship of Castle Point."

The Tories were attacked for not keeping their own traditional virtue of good husbandry after running up a £2.3 million deficit due to bad accounting in 1992-93. For two years the Tories tried to balance the books with spending cuts and council tax increases.

A disastrous foray into computer technology left the council deeper in the red. Mr Hurd said: "The loony right has been exposed by the people of Castle Point, who have ruthlessly punished a party which has taken them for granted for the last 20 years. There will be no loony politics from us. We are behind Tony Blair. There will be no red flags flying. We are here to stay." Mr Hurd, a probation officer, will attend a reception at the Commons with other newly elected Labour leaders on Wednesday.

Dr Robert Spink, the Tory MP for Castle Point, who has a majority of 16,800, left before the count was over. Mr Hurd said: "I don't think he could bear to see any more. The seat is no longer safe."

Joan Selby, the former leader of the council who was one of the few Tories to survive the poll, was dismayed by the result. Mrs Selby, a councillor for 27 years, said: "We have been scapegoated by the electorate. People are very unhappy about the National Health Service, education and the image of the national Government. Something has to change if we are to stand any chance of winning the next general election.

"If it is necessary for there to be a new leader, the powers that be will see that happens. As far as I can see there is nobody who stands out to take over. The tragedy is that national mistakes mean we have lost so many experienced people at a local level." One victim, Raymond Howard, a councillor for 28 years, blamed the party's policy on Europe for the collapse in support.

"This is Essex. Teddy Taylor and Teresa Gorman have got it right," he said. "There is a lot of support for them. No one around here wants to be ruled by Brussels. We have to be seen to be standing up to them.

"We are in a mess over the nurses. One nurse told me she would like to vote for me but I per cent was not enough. I had to agree with her."

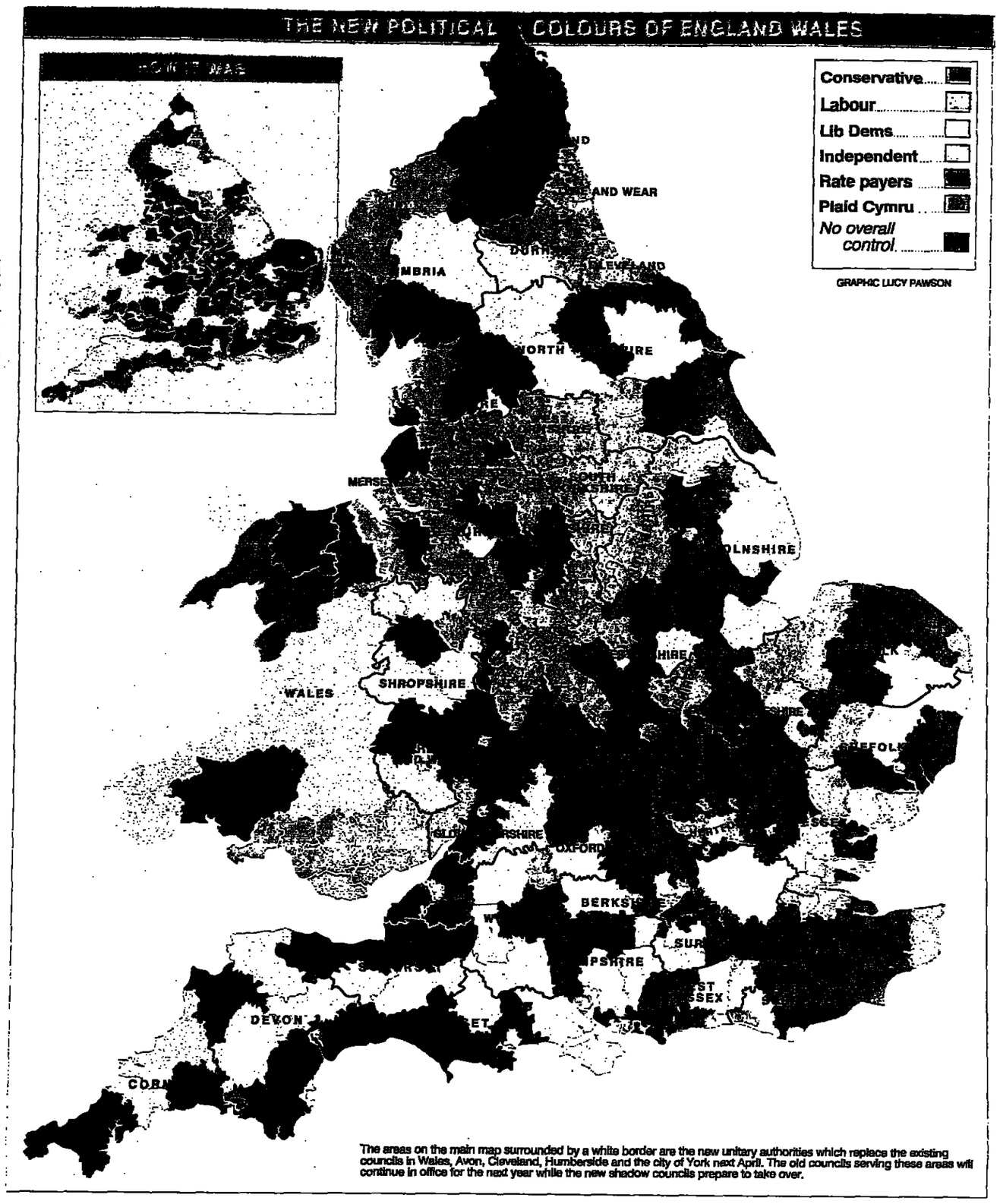
Yesterday, after a night of Labour celebrations, the partying began again when the news came through that Hove had finally fallen to the party. The Tories had previously held 21 of the 30 seats, to Labour's six. Labour has taken control with 16 seats, compared with 11 for the Tories and three for the Liberal Democrats. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, yesterday made an unscheduled visit to Hove to congratulate party activists.

Bernard Jordan, the seaside town's Tory leader, said: "I never thought you would ever get a Labour council in Hove. I could understand a reduced majority but I had hoped that we could at least keep control."

Mr Jordan blamed lack of unity in the Government. "The divisions over the Eurosceptics was the biggest political crime in the political book. It was unforgivable."

But Mr Jordan said that the Prime Minister should not stand down. "That wouldn't solve any problems. Most people see him as a straight, honest guy." However, he added that there was still a general feeling that it was time for a change. "And that is a very difficult thing to overcome."

Ivor Caplin, deputy leader of the Labour group, said: "It is an amazing result. I am delighted." Labour's first priorities would be to build more houses and cut crime by introducing closed circuit television.



The areas on the main map surrounded by a white border are the new unitary authorities which replace the existing councils in Wales, Avon, Cleveland, Humberside and the city of York next April. The old councils serving these areas will continue in office for the next year while the new shadow councils prepare to take over.

FINAL STATE OF THE PARTIES

With all 346 councils completed, the state of the parties is:

Party	Total councils	Change (+/-)	Total seats	Net change (+/-)
Lab	155	+39	5,639	+1,532
LD	45	+14	2,707	+436
Ind	18	-6	1,414	-155
C	8	-59	2,066	-1,768
PC	1	-	113	-
R	1	-	101	-17
Green	-	-	15	+4
Lib	-	-	9	-3
Soc Dem	-	-	3	-6
Others	-	-	54	-23
NOC	118	+12	-	-

The figure for net change in seats excludes boundary-change (3) and new councils (36).

Lib Dems celebrate new status in local government politics

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SURGE in the number of Liberal Democrat councillors strengthened Paddy Ashdown's claim that his party is now the second most powerful force in local government.

Gains of 483 seats continued a five-year trail of local election triumphs which has seen the party increase its number of councillors from barely 3,000 to more than 5,100.

Mr Ashdown was more delighted, however, that his party had leapfrogged the Conservatives on the number of councils under its control. Also, fears that the party would lose ground because of the Labour resurgence.

The Liberal Democrats took control of annother 14 councils, giving them a total of 53. The Tories now control only eight councils, compared with 68 before. The Lib Dems also claimed a share of power in two of five hung councils.

Mr Ashdown hailed the results as a new high-water mark for the Liberal Democrats. "We have beaten the Tories into being the third party of local government in Britain," he said.

Although Mr Ashdown said that it would not have been feasible to overtake the total number of Tory councillors because the difference had been so large, his party came closer than he had expected. Before Thursday, Liberal Democrats held almost 3,000 fewer seats than the Tories. By yesterday, their total of 5,100 seats left them only 400 behind.

Party leaders were jubilant that their control extended into new areas of the country, countering claims that they were little more than a factional party of South West England and Scotland.

The party took control for the first time of Salisbury, South Norfolk, Chelmsford, East Dorset, Gillingham, Guildford, Horsham, Mid-Devon, Mid-Sussex, North Dorset, Pendle, Ryedale, Vale of White Horse, West Devon, Waverley, Windsor and Maidenhead, and the Isle of Wight unitary authority.

Mr Ashdown said that Labour had proved "totally incapable of stopping the continued advance of the Liberal Democrats" in many areas. "It defines broadly the battleground ahead ... and who the challengers are. In many areas now it is the Liberal Democrats who are in a position to do the business." He warned the Prime Minister against treating the outcome as "mid-term blip". Last night the electorate had said in blunt terms "you haven't been listening to us" and the Government's response had been close to a "political raspberry". Mr Ashdown said: "The Government should now listen or go."

There was some disappointment for the Liberal Democrats. They lost control of Wear Valley, Co Durham, to Labour and lost overall control of Mole Valley, Surrey, and Shepway, Kent.

Labour last night accused the Lib Dems of having failed in their aim of challenging Tony Blair's party in cities such as Liverpool, Portsmouth, Sheffield and Southampton. Labour strategists also drew attention to the fact that the Lib Dem share of the vote had slipped to 23 per cent, five points below that in last year's local elections.

Lib Dem leaders, however, said the elections had proved that the party was a potent political force, in contrast to opinion polls that had given them as little as 13 per cent support.

Labour urged on to greater goal

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR ordered his army of councillors to become ambassadors for new Labour yesterday in its drive to win the next general election.

The Labour leader hailed his party's record gains as historic but issued a warning against complacency in the wake of sweeping victories throughout England and Wales. Labour made 1,848 gains and took control of 43 councils — 25 for the first time. Labour now has more than 12,000 council seats in England and Wales, more than the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats put together.

Mr Blair said the local elections had "unlocked the door" to Government. But he told Labour councillors to guard against the "massive gearing up of the Tory lie machine" as the general election approached.

Mr Blair underlined the importance of Labour councils winning the confidence of voters. "The extraordinary achievement of the councillors elected last night carries with it a special responsibility. In many areas, they will be the public's first experience of Labour in government," he said. They "must act as ambassadors for a party which continues to build the trust of the British people".



Labour supporters celebrate victory in Walsall

The list of councils which fell to Labour for the first time stretched across all regions of England. In the South East, voters in Dover, Hove, Thanet, Tendring, St Edmundsbury and Braintree will have their first experience of Labour local government. Elsewhere, Portsmouth, Exeter and Gloucester fell to Labour for the first time.

Labour took its first control of a string of councils in the Midlands: Broxtowe, Gedling, Charnwood, East Staffordshire, Stafford, Kettering, Bromsgrove, King's Lynn, Lichfield, East Northamptonshire and Fenland. In Walsall, Labour took seats from the Tories, the Liberal Democrats and Independents to gain control of the previously hung council. In Corby, Labour defeated all the 23 candidates standing against the official party as "Corby First Labour". The breakaway followed the party's deselection of several councillors two months ago.

In the North, Labour took power for the first time in Lancaster, High Peak, Selby, South Ribble and Wyre.

Many councils had not been controlled by Labour since the 1970s and included once solid Tory areas of the South which it must win to take power nationally. Labour had not won control in Dacorum, Hertfordshire; Rochester, Kent; Bracknell Forest, Berkshire; or Castle Point, Essex since before the Tories took power in 1979. Labour's share of the national vote, at 48 per cent, set a new record; its previous best, in 1991, was 44 per cent.

By yesterday, John Major was the only Cabinet minister to have a Conservative council within his constituency.

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Police marksmen shadow armed bodyguards for security alert

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PROTECTING fifty heads of state for the VE-Day commemoration events this weekend will require one of the biggest security and crowd control operations ever seen in London.

Scotland Yard is using 3,600 uniformed officers over the three days to patrol crowds that could reach a million. Hundreds of plainclothes and specialist firearms officers will provide guards for up to 80 dignitaries. Fourteen forces outside London are providing extra police motorcyclists.

No other event has brought so many heads of state, royalty and senior politicians to London since the Coronation in 1953. Forty years on, however, worries about terrorism have vastly increased, and the fear of assassination attempts now determine virtually all the arrangements for public appearances and ceremonies.

The police have made clear to foreign delegations that visiting bodyguards are expected to surrender their weapons. Some may, exceptionally, be allowed to keep them after special representations to David Vaness, an Assistant Commissioner at the Yard. It is understood that bodyguards from about half a dozen countries, including the United States and Israel, have been allowed to carry guns during visits. But each armed bodyguard is shadowed by another armed Special Branch officer. Each bodyguard is issued with a special permit and given the rules of engagement written in his own language. If he fired he would face investigation, as with a British officer, and possible charges if he fired without sufficient reason.

Police are optimistic about security, suggesting that the peace process in Northern Ireland has changed the climate. Despite the Oklahoma City attack, no special extra security has been requested by the Americans, although Vice-President Gore will travel in an imported armoured car.

Because of the large numbers of VIPs attending events such as the Guildhall dinner tonight, the service at St Paul's and six special lunches afterwards, the police are organising secret rendezvous points to marshal the guests. The VIPs in their cars will then be taken in groups to the events.

Two police control rooms will be open 24 hours during the weekend and a mobile control room will also operate at Hyde Park as police control the crowds and traffic. A police team of five has been planning operations for nearly nine months. The instructions sent out to officers have even been printed on red, white and blue sheets to mark the occasion. The plans include photographs and details of disturbed people with a fixation about the Royal Family who have caused a nuisance at events in the past.

Police say their worst nightmare is a crowd disaster. The area inside the 60-acre Hyde Park site will be run by stewards and there will be a heavy police presence inside the park to manage the crowds, especially as they leave.

Leaders assemble for thanksgiving and reconciliation

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KINGS, Presidents and Prime Ministers from Europe, the Commonwealth and the former Soviet Union began arriving yesterday to take part in the most glittering international celebration Britain has staged since the Coronation.

Representatives of 57 nations will attend a banquet at Guildhall tonight, a service of thanksgiving, reconciliation and hope in St Paul's tomorrow morning and a ceremony of music and remembrance in Hyde Park in the afternoon, having been entertained to lunch in Buckingham Palace by the Queen.

The criteria for invitation was that the country should have been fought over during the war or that they should have contributed at least a brigade of troops to the European theatre. All the main combatants in Europe will therefore be represented, including those such as Hungary, Austria, Finland, Romania and Italy which fought for at least part of the war on Germany's side. Germany is doubly represented — by its President and its Chancellor.

All 15 former Soviet republics have been invited, as the Red Army drew men from every part of the country, including Central Asia. Only two leaders from the former Soviet Union are not coming: President Shevardnadze of Georgia, who was recently in Britain on an official visit and whose country is in turmoil, and President Rakhmonov of Tajikistan, who faces an armed rebellion.

Although Yugoslavia saw some of the fiercest partisan fighting during the war, not all the successor states have been invited. No invitations were sent to Serbia, Montenegro or the rump federal Yugoslavia.

The invitations to both President Tudjman of Croatia and President Izetbegovic of Bosnia have caused bitterness among many Serbs, because of their wartime suffering at the hands of the pro-Nazi puppet Croat Government as well as today's troubles. The latest upsurge in fighting in the former Yugoslavia makes it doubtful whether both leaders will in fact be present.

President Gligorov of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is separated by a wide margin from President Stephanopopulos of Greece, whose country refuses to recognise Mr Gligorov's republic. The Greek leader, elected only in March, comes second from last in protocol order because he is the youngest in office, although his country saw heavy fighting during the war. He is followed by Gibraltar, the only British dependency separately represented.

The Commonwealth will be little represented at the weekend ceremonies. Although many soldiers from the colonies — especially in Africa — joined up, most were sent to fight the Japanese. Special commemorations will be held to mark their wartime service in the VJ-Day commemorations, which will be limited to Commonwealth participants.

Two countries that were far from the European theatre have been invited because of their special war efforts. Jordan, then known as Transjordan, declared war on Germany on the same day as Britain. The Arab Legion, under its British commander John Glubb, saw active service in North Africa with Montgomery's forces, fought the Vichy French in Syria and helped put down the pro-Axis revolt in Iraq.

Brazil sent an expeditionary force of 25,000 officers and men to Italy to help the Allied campaign. Brazil declared war in 1942 in response to German attacks on Brazilian ships, and in 1944 became the only Latin American country to send troops to Europe.

VE-DAY

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PETER DEJONG



Canadian veterans perched on a Sherman tank in an Amsterdam liberation parade yesterday, led by a Dutch ex-soldier on a cycle carrying his country's flag

Protocol reigns supreme at commemoration

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE order in which the kings, presidents, prime ministers and statesmen will arrive and be seated at the VE-Day events is determined by their duration in office. Leading all the statemen representing the 57 nations taking part in the celebrations will be King Husain of Jordan, who was enthroned in August 1952. He will be followed, in strict protocol order, by:

Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg, Princess Benedikte of Denmark (standing in for Queen Margrethe), King Birendra of Nepal, Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, President Sir K. J. Masire, President Francois Mitterrand of France, President Roman Herzog of Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, King Mswati III of Swaziland, President Noor Mohammed Hassanali of Trinidad & Tobago, President Milan Kucan of Slovenia, President Ion Iliescu of Romania, President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, President Zhelyu Zhelev of Bulgaria, President Arpad Goncz of Hungary, James Bolger, Prime Minister of New Zealand, Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, Foreign Minister of Poland (standing in for President Walesa), President Alija Izetbegov of Bosnia, Prince Haakon of Norway (standing in for King Harald), President Kiro Gligorov of Macedonia.

President Yeltsin of Russia is not coming but will be represented instead by his Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, followed by President Abdur Rahman Biswas of Bangladesh, President Levon Ter-Petrossian of Armenia, President Askar Akaev of Kirghizia, President Nursultan Nazarbaev of Kazakhstan, Ion Gutu, Deputy Prime Minister of Moldavia (standing in for President Snegur), Senator Robert Pay of Australia (standing in for Paul Keating, the Prime Minister), Bakhtiyor Gulyamov, State Counsellor of Uzbekistan (standing in for President Karimov), President Sali Berisha of Albania.

Italy, one of several countries whose forces fought against the Allies, will be represented by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. He will be followed by President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan, President Thomas Klestil of Austria, Pranab Mukherjee, Foreign Minister of India (standing in for President Sharma), President Lennart Meri of Estonia, Vice-President Al Gore of the United States (standing in for President Clinton), President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, President Glafcos Clerides of Cyprus, President Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania, President Michal Kovac of Slovakia.

President Ezer Weizman of Israel will be one of the three heads of state who fought for the British during the war. He will be followed by Sir Howard Cooke, the Governor-General of Jamaica, President Guntis Ulmanis of Latvias, Prince Philippe of Belgium (standing in for King Albert),



King Husain of Jordan

President Haidar Aliev of Azerbaijan, Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada, Yousef Gilani, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan (standing in for President Leghari), President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, President Mifsud Bonnici of Malta.

President Mandela of South Africa will not be coming, but will be represented by the first deputy president Thabo Mbeki, followed by President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine, Mikhail Chigir, Prime Minister of Belorussia (standing in for President Lukashenko), President Fernando Cardoso of Brazil, King Moshoeshoe III of Lesotho, President Konstantinos Stephanopoulos of Greece and Joseph Pilcher, the Deputy Chief Minister of Gibraltar (standing in for Joe Bossano, the Chief Minister) last in protocol order because Gibraltar is a dependency. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and John Major will bring up the rear.

Allied servicemen who became heads of state

BY MICHAEL BINYON

SPECIAL honour and attention will be accorded to three of the guests who themselves fought with British forces during the war: Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg, President Weizman of Israel and President Clerides of Cyprus.

The Grand Duke, now 74, was at school at Ampleforth in England, and went into exile in Canada after the German invasion of Luxembourg. After finishing his law studies, he was commissioned as an officer in the Irish Guards and took part in the liberation of France and Belgium. His father was a British brigadier-general.

Ezer Weizman, brought up in Palestine, joined the RAF as a volunteer at the age of 18 in 1942 and spent time at the RAF staff college. He was trained in Rhodesia as a pilot, seeing action in North Africa and India. After the war he studied aeronautics in Britain before returning to Palestine.

President Clerides, now 76, served in Bomber Command. He escaped twice from German PoW camps and was mentioned in dispatches for distinguished service. He was studying law at King's College London when war was declared. In the RAF he saw action in frequent raids on Germany as a pilot and bomber with 115 squadron. "Twice my plane was riddled with bullets and I managed to get back across the Channel and belly land in some fields," he said.

President Mitterrand, who joined the French Resistance, also saw war service. But the most poignant memories come from Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, the Foreign Minister of Poland, who at the age of 18 was arrested by the SS in its round-up of intellectuals and sent to Auschwitz in 1940. He was released in April 1941 and soon joined a Catholic resistance group to help persecuted Jews. In 1942 he joined the Home Army of the Polish Government in exile in London, and served in Krakow in 1944-45.

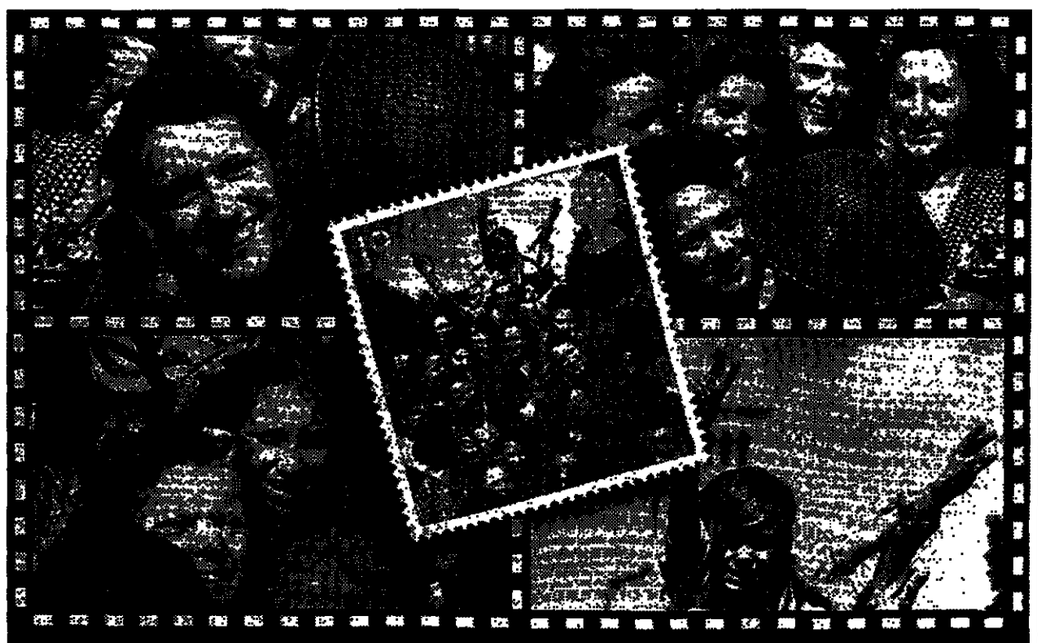


Grand Duke Jean, left, and President Weizman

Forgotten army's plea

WHILE victory was being celebrated in Europe, war was still raging in the Pacific.

Sub-Lieutenant F. J. Atkins, commanding a landing craft off Burma, wrote to his fiancee on May 7, 1945: "My own darling Sheila, we are now at sea — there ain't a living thing for miles and it's lovely! The only fly in the ointment is that we have just heard that it's V-day tomorrow ... Like everyone else out here, I wish more than ever that I were home at this time. I wonder how many people will give a thought for the 14th Army on V-day."



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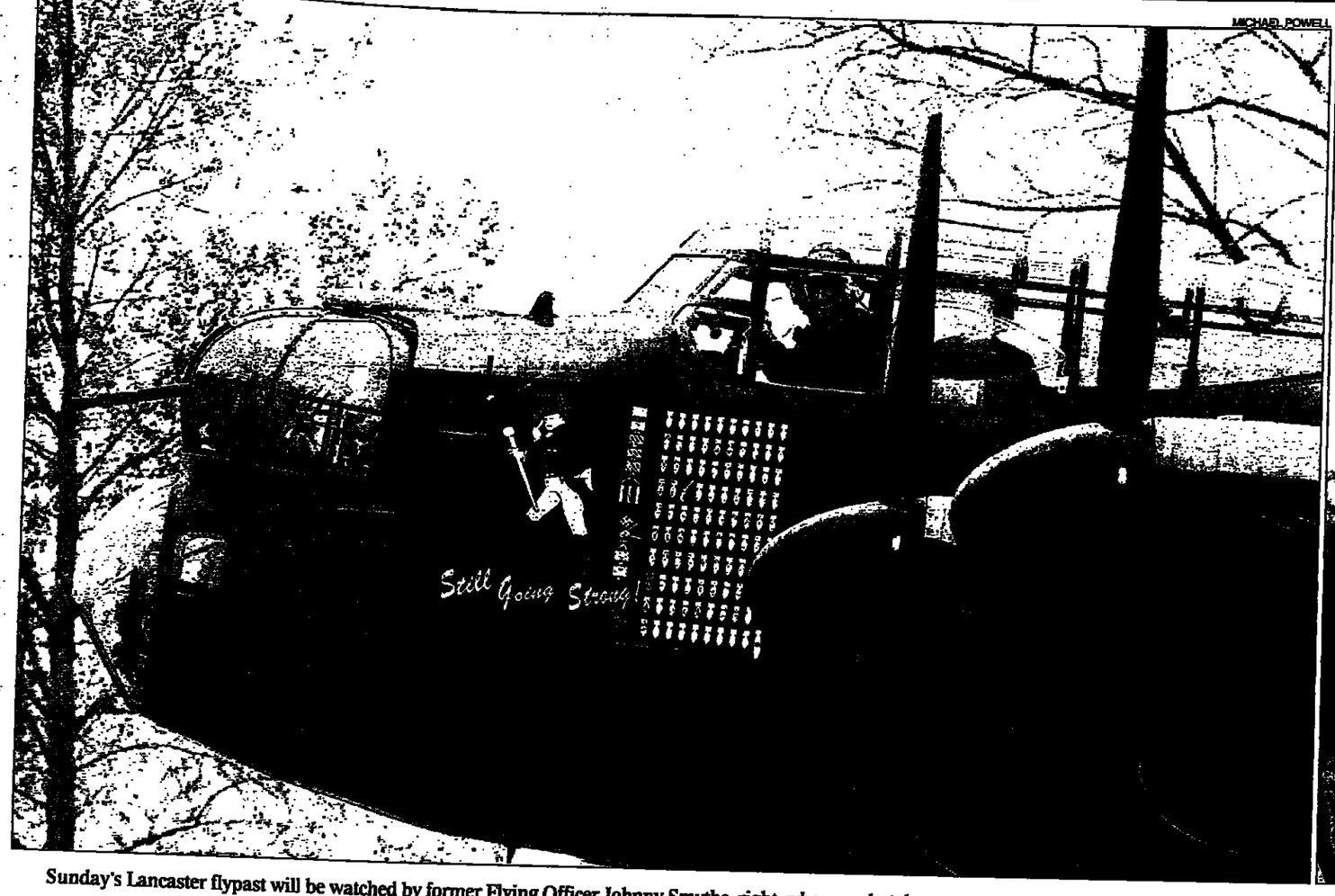
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MICHAEL POWELL



CHRIS HARRIS

Sunday's Lancaster flypast will be watched by former Flying Officer Johnny Smythe, right, who was shot down over Berlin in 1943 and taken prisoner. "I would die a happy man if I could climb aboard that old bomber again"

'Being a black man saved me from death'

■ **Germans who captured Flying Officer Johnny Smythe treated him "as a curiosity, like something in a zoo". Bill Frost met the veteran**

AS THE parachute jolted open, Flying Officer Johnny Smythe watched the flak burst around him and saw in the searchlight beam that there were bloodstains on his flying jacket.

"I doubted I would reach the ground alive and if I did, what would they make of this large black man?" the 6ft 5in QC from Sierra Leone recalled last night as he prepared to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his liberation by the Red Army from a prisoner-of-war camp. His Lancaster was attacked by fighters and hit by anti-aircraft fire during a night raid over Berlin on November 18, 1943. As the engines died, the crew baled out. Mr Smythe, now 79, hit the ground with a "sickening jolt" and realised that his wounds were bleeding profusely. Bracing himself against the pain, he hid his parachute and set out for a nearby barn. "I knew I had to get away from the area. We had been briefed that German fury over the raids was such that aircrew who made it to the ground were being shot out of hand," he recalled.

Minutes later he heard voices. "Men in uniform came into the barn where I was hiding behind some straw. Then they opened up — raked the place with automatic fire." Smythe decided discretion was the better part of valour and gave himself up. "They could not believe their eyes, I am sure that is what saved me from summary execution. To see a black man — and an officer to boot — was more than they could come to terms with. They just stood there gaping," he said.

Taken to an interrogation centre and treated for his wounds, Smythe was at first a "curiosity, like something in the zoo", with officers coming from Berlin simply to stare at him. The novelty soon wore off, however, as Smythe persistently refused to tell his captors anything more than his name, rank and serial number. "Death came close when I was beaten up with a rifle butt by this little corporal. He bludgeoned and kicked me. I was going to strangle him, but God controlled me. The other soldiers had gathered around to watch and I knew they would shoot me if I attacked the little man."

Death came closer still a week later before he was to be transferred to Stalag Luft One in Pomerania. "They dragged me from my cell, which was no bigger than a lavatory, and blindfolded me. I was taken outside and put against a post. I heard the bolt action on half a dozen rifles after the firing squad took their places. Then I just waited for what seemed like hours." Eventually he lifted his blindfold. "The officer saluted me and told me I was a brave soldier. Then they took my boots and pushed me into the truck which was to take me to Stalag Luft One."

Once behind the wire, Smythe played an active role on the escape committee but could never break out himself. "I don't think a six foot five black man would have got very far in Pomerania somehow. I would have stuck out like a sore thumb."

Although treated reasonably by his captors and much-loved by fellow officers, he found life as a PoW "intolerably dull". Only once was he confronted with the hard truth of Nazism. "There was a Jewish RAF officer with us — a Pole who had joined up in 1940. The SS came for him one day but we managed to convince the camp doctor, a Luftwaffe man, to tell them he was sick. But those filthy thugs kept coming back. Eventually we were beaten, they took him away to a concentration camp. It was our saddest day."

Liberated by the Russians 50 years ago today, Mr Smythe recalled how a Red Army colonel embraced him and gave him vodka. "I was feted because I was black. They took me to a town near the camp and I watched as they looted. A pretty young German woman was crying as they took all her valuables. When I saw her tears I wanted to help, but the Russians wouldn't listen. I had hated the Germans, wanted to kill the bastards for what they had done to the world. But something changed inside me when I saw the tears and the hopelessness on her face." As he prepares to celebrate VE-Day, Mr Smythe finds that pride and sorrow are struggling for control of his emotions. "There were so many who never came back — friends from all over Britain the Commonwealth. I see their faces in my mind's eye and remember their bravery."

After the war, he studied law and thrived in his chosen profession. He is a former attorney-general of Sierra Leone and took silk in 1968. He is married with four children. Tomorrow morning, after attending a church service near his home in Thame, Oxfordshire, he will watch a flypast of Second World War planes. Among them will be a Lancaster.

"I would die a happy man if I could just climb aboard that old bomber again," he says wistfully. "I will never forget the memory of those times, no one should."

Guests from 1945 party roll out the barrel again

BY JOHN YOUNG

AMONG those celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of VE-Day at street parties will be residents of the Wickenden Estate in Sevenoaks, Kent. Tomorrow afternoon some of those who attended the original party will mingle with children for whom the events of 1939-45 are remote and ancient history.

The *Sevenoaks News* of 50 years ago records that "a grand Victory party was organised for about a hundred children ... including a baby show, entertainment, games and races of all sorts.

"Pastor F. H. O'Connor opened the proceedings at 4.30 with Grace and a hymn of thanksgiving, and then the children, their ages ranging from under a year to 16 years, were allowed to start the bumper tea that had been provided for them by parents and friends, consisting of sandwiches, biscuits, cakes, buns, jellies, trifles and blancmanges etc.

"So great was the number of cakes, buns and biscuits left over that the committee decided to allow the mothers of the children to buy them later in the evening.

"Mr Walter Walkling, dressed in a navy-blue and white dress with ribbons in his hair, made the children roar with laughter by pushing Mr George Bonnet, dressed as a baby ... in a pram along the road. Mr Charlie Canon, the well known local ventriloquist, then entertained the children with his dummy dressed in the uniform of the RAF, and his son, a boy of 15 years or so, sang in a charming soprano voice, "A brown bird singing", accompanying himself on the piano."

Just two months before the party, a V2 rocket had exploded in Wickenden Road, destroying four houses and killing nine people, including two small children. Among the children at the party was Ian Stupples, who now works in the design department of *The Times*; he was five years old at the time and is seventh from the front on the left of the main table.

Eighteen months later the newspaper reported that the residents of the estate had raised funds for a welcome home dinner for more than a hundred former servicemen and women, the only people in the town to do so.

The chairman of the organising committee reported that it had received no encouragement from the local council.

"Apparently they were blissfully unaware that the war was over, or else they did not realise their civic responsibilities," he said.



The way we were: the 1945 party on the Wickenden Estate at Sevenoaks, Kent.

REACTION TO SURRENDER

THE reaction of troops serving in Europe to the news of surrender varied markedly:

☐ *Private Eric Codling, 8th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment*: Out came the rum, a toast to our comrades who were not there to share this moment of happiness. It seemed a lifetime since we had embarked on this adventure. Forty men drawn together by fate landed in Normandy; almost a year after, less than half were present.

☐ *Major Peter Martin, 2nd Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment*: I felt an incredible sense of anti-climax. From the age of 19 the German war had always been there. I couldn't see much point in existence any more. I can remember weeping that night. I don't think I was the only person in the division.

☐ *Captain Joe Patterson, of the 2nd Special Air Service Regiment*: Almost at once we had a panic stand-to, as one of our Jeeps had just been shot up and the four occupants taken prisoner by outposts of 400 militant SS. We went chasing up in the half-light and found the Jeep all shot up and full of blood. We took only a few prisoners, mostly boys of 15 to 16, whom we let go.

☐ *The Reverend Leslie Skinner, chaplain to the Sherwood Rangers*: Wakened to sound and sight of Very lights being fired everywhere. Guessed the surrender had been announced. Too tired and cold to care. Stayed in bed.

■ From *Victory in Europe*, by Julian Thompson (Sidgwick & Jackson, £25)

A schoolgirl's diary expresses pride in democratic Britain

ON THE day that victory in Europe was declared, Shirley Summerskill, who became a doctor and Labour MP for Halifax, was 13. Her mother was MP for West Fulham and a member of Labour's National Executive Committee, and Shirley had a privileged view of the celebrations. This is an extract from her diary:

"The sun was shining brightly today and I had no school. All the newspapers had peace news and I have saved them for future reference.

After lunch we decided to go out in the car to the West End, Whitehall etc., and Mama wanted to go to the House. It being a public holiday, everyone looked happy. They wore their light summer clothes, carried no bags and the buses were comparatively empty. People just strolled up and down the streets arm in arm, not hurrying at all. Some youths were wearing funny hats and waved rattles; many of the girls too wore red, white and blue ribbons or flowers in their hair. In Whitehall crowds were sitting on the kerb and pavement, four or five deep, as if they were there for the day.

The crowds before the House of Commons were terrific. They were all over the roads, pressed against every wall, on all the monuments, hanging out of the windows and lining the roofs of all the buildings in sight.

Soon the bells on Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's pealed out and we stood at the door [of St Margaret's] and watched the crowds. They were getting more excited now and were cheering. When the bells stopped and Churchill was announced the crowd silenced.

He made roughly a five-minute speech and there were occasional cheers. As *God Save the King* was played, everyone stood to attention beneath the flags of the three Big Powers fluttering on the buildings. Then they waited for the MPs' procession to the church.

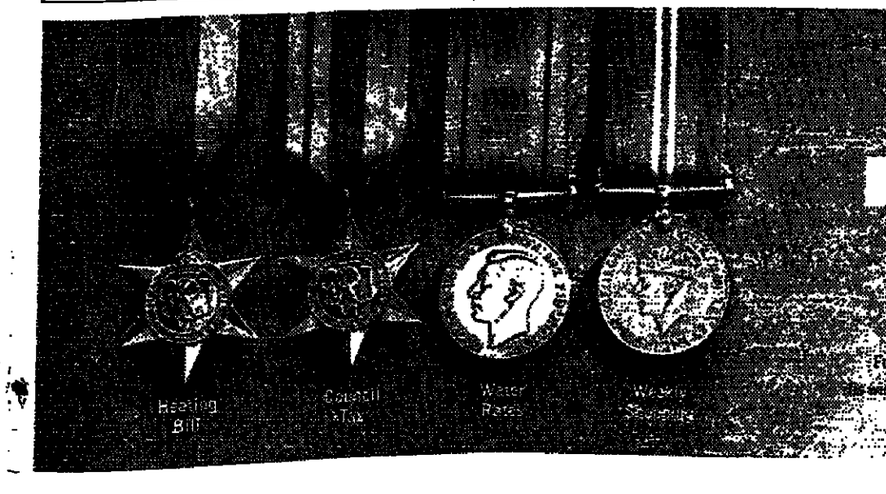
I had an excellent view as they came though the door. The old Mace bearer, followed by the Speaker, Churchill and his pals slowly walking in, silently, gazing at the ground a little ahead; and then the six hundred-odd other MPs, some known, some unknown but I recognised many old faces.

It [the service] was wisely made a short one and included a prayer for the MPs killed in battle. The singing was mainly composed of deep male voices and when the doors were swung open and the sun shone into the war-scarred church I felt proud of Britain and its people outside and proud of our free democratic Government, whatever party.

[Later] we walked to Piccadilly Circus ... There was no traffic. Soldiers climbed up lamp posts, sailors danced around in a ring, people sang any song that came into their heads and fireworks were set off under our feet ... All the way [home] they were dancing round bonfires on bomb sites and singing on the roads."



Shirley Summerskill with her parents on VE-Day



Thousands of ex-Servicemen

are still paying a high price

for their country.

For many ex-Service families the cost of living is far too high. Pte. Gill was awarded a medal for extreme bravery. The widow was forced to sell it for just £4. SSAFA receive calls for financial assistance from over 35,000 people each year. It's impossible to put a value on a Serviceman's bravery, so please donate generously.

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For 36 nail-biting hours, fear of false dawn kept nation guessing

News of surrender held back

BY ALAN HAMILTON

NEVER was there such a tantalising-day as May 7, 1945, as the nation waited in expectation and in vain for some official word that the war in Europe was at an end.

Clumsy news management and a craven desire to humour the Russians conspired to ensure that Britain was not formally told of the German surrender until more than 36 hours after it had happened. By the time VE-Day dawned, the country's fingernails were bitten to the quick.

General Jodl and Admiral Dönitz had signed the act of unconditional surrender at 2.41am on the 7th at Eisenhower's headquarters in Rheims. News correspondents at the scene rushed to tell the world what it had so long waited to hear, but found themselves denied access to all the telephones and teleprinters, stymied by the last great act of wartime censorship. Bowing to Russian pressure, the Western allies had agreed to a complete news blackout until the surrender had been ratified by Marshal Zhukov at his Red Army headquarters in Berlin. Edward Kennedy, correspondent of the Associated Press news agency, would have none of it. He leapt into a car and drove through the night to Paris, where he filed the story to his London bureau with the help of a military censor unaware of the arrangement for delay. Within minutes teleprinters in newspapers and radio stations throughout the world were chattering out the magic sentence: "Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Western allies and Russia 2.41am French time today." Allied supreme headquarters was furious about the leak and issued a denial, which was enough to cast a shadow of doubt across the world's newsrooms. There had been false alarms before. The newsrooms sat on the story.

On the home front, the tension was almost unbearable. People had an ear cocked to the wireless all day, desperate for news. Halfway through the afternoon, passengers at Euston froze when the station announcer suddenly boomed: "Here is an important announcement," then howled with indignation when he continued: "The 4.09 to Northampton will leave from platform 7, and not as shown on the indicator."

At six o'clock the BBC announced that the Prime Minister would not be broadcasting that night. Finally, at 7.40pm, the radio announced that the next day would be celebrated as Victory in Europe Day and would be a national holiday. Stuart Hibberd, the announcer, read a miserably colourless official statement: "It is understood that, in accordance with arrangements between the three great powers, an official announcement will be broadcast by the Prime Minister at 3 o'clock tomorrow." Still no mention of the surrender or declaration that the war was at an end. But the news was enough to alert the nation to clear the decks for a multitude of street parties.

> "Here is an important announcement ... The 4.09 to Northampton will leave from platform 7"

There had been signs enough for some weeks that a semblance of normality was returning to the home front. On April 20, Herbert Morrison had announced to a cheering Commons that the blackout would be abolished, except in coastal areas, and throughout the country householders were showered with dust and dead spiders as they dismantled their window screens. Allied forces had crossed the Rhine in March, and by April it had become legal again to buy a large-scale map, have a radio in the car, sleep outdoors in an uncamouflaged tent, release a racing pigeon without police permission, and sound a factory hooter.

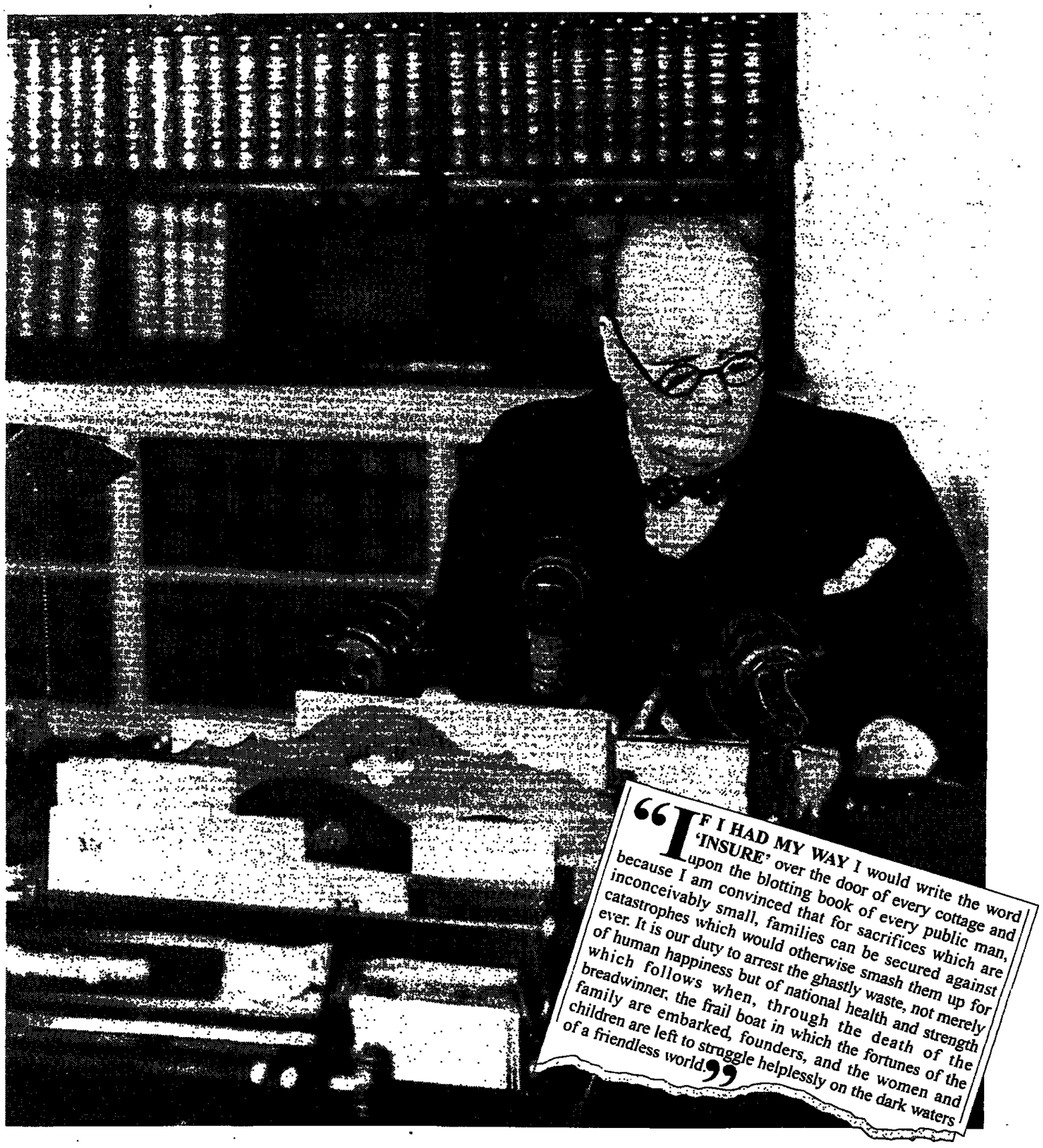
Trousers were once again allowed turn-ups as the textile shortage eased. Since the end of April Union Jacks had been on sale in the big stores, with Selfridges widely acclaimed as having the best flag counter. On May 7, as the nation strained for news of the surrender, the Board of Trade let slip the hint of imminent victory: "Until the end of May you may buy cotton bunting without coupons, as long as it is red, white or blue and does not cost more than 1s 3d a square yard."

It was not until three in the afternoon of May 8 that Churchill went on the radio to make the first official pronouncement of what everyone by now knew. "Hostilities will officially end at one minute after midnight tonight. The German war is therefore at an end. Long live the cause of freedom. God save the King."

Nobody was more pleased than readers of that morning's *Daily Mirror*. After six tantalising war years, *Jane*, the eponymous heroine of the era's most celebrated strip cartoon, celebrated victory in Europe by finally taking off her clothes.



The picture of a reunion that captured a nation's relief: inset, Brian Jeffreys today



"IF I HAD MY WAY I would write the word 'INSURE' over the door of every cottage and upon the blotting book of every public man, because I am convinced that for sacrifices which are inconceivably small, families can be secured against catastrophes which would otherwise smash them up for ever. It is our duty to arrest the ghastly waste, not merely of human happiness but of national health and strength which follows when, through the death of the breadwinner, the frail boat in which the fortunes of the family are embarked, founders, and the women and children are left to struggle helplessly on the dark waters of a friendless world."

Mask is lifted on an unsung hero

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN ANGELIC child whose picture touched the nation on VE-Day has been tracked down after 50 years. The photo of six-year-old Brian Jeffreys being hugged and kissed by his soldier father has resurfaced as one of BT's special VE-Day phonecards.

The 1945 picture showed Albie Jeffreys cuddling and kissing the cheek of his cherubic son. It became a symbol of the happiness and relief felt by millions at the end of the war but father and son have remained anonymous for 50 years.

Brian, now a printer living in Westgate, Kent, had been evacuated from his home in Old Kent Road, scene of some of the worst bombing. His father, who died last year aged 77, was a champion swimmer and became an unsung hero during the evacuation of Dunkirk. He saved two men from drowning and suffered damage to his hearing from gunfire.

A private, the former van driver became Lord Gaunt's chauffeur after Dunkirk. He needed permission from his superior to kiss his son while in uniform.

Mr Jeffreys said yesterday: "Dad never wanted to be in the limelight so he stayed an unsung hero. He never let on he was in the photo, even when famous people wrote and talked about it."

Albie's widow has gone back to the East End, at the age of 80, to be near other members of her family. Mr Jeffreys added: "I was six when the picture was taken. I remember a great big flashbulb going off. We were a family of Cockney sparrows and ever so proud of what Dad did. He talked about it a bit and his grandchildren loved to hear him natter about the old days. He would have loved all the VE-Day storytelling and memories."

Now with four grown-up children, Mr Jeffreys and his wife Valerie, 55, plan to celebrate VE-Day with a barbeque. The original photograph appears on one of six special phonecards issued by BT for VE-Day.

Children's street parties and shows

EVENTS arranged for children as part of the VE-Day celebrations on Monday range from quizzes and displays to theatre, funfairs and story-telling. The following are a selection of those planned around London.

The Oxford Street Children's Party: Celebrations for children aged 5-12 for the 125th anniversary of the British Red Cross with quizzes, competitions and first-aid workshops. VE-Day storytelling, games, clowns, magicians and street theatre. Admission free. 11.30am-2.30pm. (0171) 235 5454.

Little Venice Canalway Cavalcade: A waterways festival celebrating VE-Day and the bicentenary of the Paddington Canal. Among the attractions are a pageant of boats, craft stalls, entertainments and theatre, boat trips and children's activities including a teddy bears' picnic. Admission free. (0181) 533 5128.

Hyde Park, Park Lane side: Families Day, 10am to 5pm. A host of events, including live arts, exhibitions, parachute drops and, at 3pm, a Workers' Playtime Concert.

Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, Hendon: *Peace and the Future*, a musical and theatrical production commissioned by the Anne Frank Educational Trust for children aged 8-13. Presented for the first time to celebrate VE-Day, the story is about two young girls living 50 years apart. Tickets are sold out but there may be some returns. At 5pm peace balloons will be released. (0181) 950 6476.

Thameside VE-Day: Family entertainment at Hay's Galleria with the nearby *HMS Belfast* (see below) and Churchill's Britain at War Museum joining the festivities. The programme includes a lunchtime concert by the 20-piece Big Swing Band, a display of 1940s dancing by Le Roc dance troupe, songs from the 1940s, tap dancing and comedy plus acrobatics from the Cheeky Chappies. Hay's Galleria, Tooley Street, SE1.

***HMS Belfast*, near Tower Bridge:** Family fun day with tug of war, King Neptune, sea shanties. Entry is free for children, but a donation would be appreciated. (0171) 407 6434.

VE-Day Park Event: Free entertainments, funfair and fireworks. Ravenscourt Park, west London. 2-9.30pm. Fireworks start at 8.40pm.

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THEIR memorial is a historic building (now the Naval Club) in London which the Wave Heritage Trust has been formed to preserve.

IF you were in the RNVR or have a relation or friend who died or served in the War will you support the WAVE HERITAGE TRUST?

You may SUPPORT the Trust by sending a donation to:

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YOU will then be sent details of other ways of preserving the Memorial, and visiting it.

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VICTORY IN EUROPE TO BE DECLARED TO-DAY

THE KING AND MR. CHURCHILL TO BROADCAST

GERMANS ANNOUNCE UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER

CAPITULATION IN NORWAY

To-day is VE Day. The Prime Minister will broadcast at 3 p.m. and the King at 9 o'clock to-night. To-day and to-morrow will be holidays in the United Kingdom.

The German Foreign Minister, Count Schwerin von Krosigk, broadcast yesterday to the German people announcing the unconditional surrender of all fighting German troops, and said: "We must now face our fate squarely and unquestioningly."

The Danish wireless, now under allied control, said yesterday afternoon that the German forces in Norway had capitulated.

A broadcast from Prague yesterday stated that the Germans in that area would fight on until "the Germans in the east are saved, and until our way back into the homeland is secured."

PROCLAMATION IN THREE CAPITALS

TWO DAYS' HOLIDAY

From Our Parliamentary Correspondent

The official announcement of the ending of hostilities in Europe will be made by Mr. Churchill at 3 o'clock this afternoon. There will be simultaneous announcements in Washington and Moscow.

Expectations that the Prime Minister would be able to make the announcement yesterday were not realized, and after Mr. Churchill had been in communication with President Truman and Marshal Stalin the Ministry of Information issued last night the following official statement:—

It is understood that, in accordance with arrangements between the three great Powers, an official announcement will be broadcast by the Prime Minister at 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon, May 8.

In view of this fact, to-morrow (Tuesday) will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday. The day following, Wednesday, May 9, will also be regarded as a holiday.

His Majesty the King will broadcast to the peoples of the British Empire and Commonwealth to-morrow, Tuesday, at 9 p.m. British Double Summer Time.

Parliament will meet to-morrow at the usual hour.

PARLIAMENT AT CHURCH

Mr. Churchill will make the broadcast announcement from the Cabinet room at 10, Downing Street. It was from this same room on the morning of September 3, 1939, that the late Mr. Neville Chamberlain announced that Britain was at war with Germany and warned the nation that we should be fighting "evil things."

The House of Commons will meet at 2.15 p.m., and it will be occupied first with questions to Ministers, of which there are 111 on the order paper for to-day. Immediately after his broadcast from Downing Street Mr. Churchill will go to the House, and will inform the Commons that the war in Europe is at an end. His statement in the House will probably be made about 3.15, which is the end of the question hour.

Mr. Churchill will conclude by proposing that members should attend a service of thanksgiving for victory at St. Margaret's Church, and members will afterwards go there in procession, led by the Speaker, who will be preceded by the Serjeant at Arms bearing the Mace. Immediately behind the Speaker will walk the Prime Minister and other members of the War Cabinet and the Government. After the service at St. Margaret's, which will last about half an hour, the House will adjourn for the day.

Simultaneously with the Prime Minister's statement in the Commons Lord Woolton—the acting Leader of the House in Lord Cranborne's absence—will announce to the House of Lords the ending of the war in Europe. The peers will afterwards attend a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey, to which they will walk in procession, headed by the Lord Chancellor. The House will afterwards adjourn for the day.

The Prime Minister yesterday entertained at luncheon at 10, Downing Street the three Chiefs of Staff—Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew Cunningham, Field-Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, and Marshal of the Air Force Sir Charles Portal.

There will be broadcasts to-day by General Eisenhower, Field-Marshal Montgomery, Field-Marshal Alexander, and other military leaders.

THE TIMETABLE OF SURRENDER

A LAST-MINUTE DELAY

FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A day of confusing rumours and expectant waiting ended with the official announcement that to-day will be proclaimed VE Day. The broadcast statement from Flensburg that Grand Admiral Dönitz had ordered the unconditional surrender of all German fighting forces was followed by an agency report that Colonel-General Gustav Jodl, the German chief of staff, signed the instrument of surrender at Rheims, General Eisenhower's temporary headquarters, early yesterday.

This report stated that the surrender took place at 2.41 a.m. (French time) and that the scene was a little red school house. General Bedell Smith, General Eisenhower's chief of staff, signed for the allied Supreme Command, according to an account of the ceremony broadcast by the New York wireless. General Ivan Susloparov, it was added, signed for Russia and General François Sevez for France.

Later an authorized statement from General Eisenhower's headquarters that no official statement "for publication" on "the complete surrender of the German forces in Europe" had been made.

The explanation seems to be that the official statement about the Rheims ceremony was withheld because of the difficulty of arranging for the simultaneous announcement of the end of the war by London, Washington, and Moscow. Such an announcement was to have been made at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, but unfortunately the arrangement could not be completed in time, so that a momentous day could not be brought to its due consummation.

THE KING'S THANKS TO THE A.E.F.

TELEGRAM TO GENERAL EISENHOWER

The King sent the following telegram to General Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, last night:—

Eleven months ago you led the Allied Expeditionary Force across the English Channel, carrying with you the hopes and prayers of millions of men and women of many nations. To it was entrusted the task of annihilating the German armies in western Europe, and of thus liberating the peoples whom they had enslaved.

All the world now knows that after fierce and continuous warfare this force has accomplished its mission with a finality achieved by no other such expedition in history.

On behalf of all my peoples I ask that you, its Supreme Commander, will tell its members how deeply grateful we are to them, and how unbounded is our admiration for the courage and determination which, under wise leadership, have brought them to their goal of complete and crushing victory.

I would ask you also to convey a special message of congratulation to my own forces now under your command. Throughout the campaign they have acquitted themselves in all services with a valour and distinction for which their fellow-countrymen will forever hold them in honour.

THANKSGIVING DAY

SPECIAL SERVICES ON SUNDAY

In accordance with the King's wish, already announced, next Sunday will be observed throughout the country as a day of national thanksgiving and prayer. The King himself will attend the central service in London, and he will be officially represented at special services in Edinburgh, Belfast, and Cardiff.

LORD MAYOR AT ST. PAUL'S TO-DAY

There will be a thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Cathedral at noon to-day, with full choir, including the boys, who have now returned from Cornwall. The Lord Mayor of London (Sir Frank Alexander) will attend.

Throughout the day there will be other services of a less formal kind, beginning about 10 a.m. These will be announced outside the cathedral. At 8 p.m. there will be a thanksgiving service for the cathedral fire watch.

Speaking from the balcony of the Mansion House to a crowd which had gathered after the 6 o'clock news last night, the Lord Mayor said:—

"We have had the announcement of the cessation of hostilities in Europe through the papers and we feel that this is, indeed, a joyous moment; but even when the war in Europe is brought to an end there is still a hard task for us to accomplish. It is important to us that patience and endurance should carry us through the coming years as they have fortified us in the past."

To assist the public to attend places of worship next Sunday (Thanksgiving Sunday) the Minister of War Transport has decided to relax, where possible, on that day the general restriction on Sunday morning bus services in places where vehicles can be made available without placing undue strain on maintenance staffs and crews. There is no question at this stage of a general restoration of such services.

A service of thanksgiving will be held in the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, at 6.30 to-day.

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THE FIRST PEACE FEELERS

WHEN ENEMY KNEW HE WAS BEATEN

FANTASTIC OFFER

From Our Military Correspondent

The unconditional surrender of all German forces is the tardy official recognition of a situation the main features of which have been for some time clear to vanquished and victors alike. It had been implicitly recognized by the enemy much earlier.

Two months ago, on March 7, the day before the first American soldiers crossed the Rhine by surprise at Remagen, over a fortnight before the main passage by the 21st Army Group, the first known peace feelers—there may have been some even earlier—began in Stockholm. They embodied fantastic terms, the maintenance of the Nazi régime and permission to oppose further Russian progress into Germany. That, however, is not uncommon in bargaining. They suggested that a more reasonable attitude might soon be assumed.

Then before March was out and about a fortnight before the launch of the final victorious offensive in Italy, the German commander-in-chief in that theatre, General von Vietinghoff, began negotiations for the surrender of his forces. More recently, but still over a fortnight ago, Himmler made an offer of unconditional surrender to the western Powers only.

POSITION HOPELESS

It matters not whether there was effrontery or desperate gambling in these German moves. They proved that the enemy knew that all was in effect over. Dispassionate observers had concluded that Germany was already effectively defeated before the Battle of the Rhine took place, but after it was over it became clear to any child that her position was hopeless. On all fronts the allies took the most appropriate means to force the enemy to admit what he so clearly knew, and to act in accordance with his admission.

There was, in fact, to be no more than local resistance to allied advances and attacks. Yet it should be recognized now—so that it shall not be overlooked in future—that for the individual soldier the test of those last steps in beating down resistance may be as trying as the vital assault of earlier days or the desperate defence of days still earlier. It may be even more so because he knows that victory is already won and life begins to beckon to him with a new and imperious attraction: and in the last few weeks many a good man has not been able to respond to that beckoning because his duty has withdrawn him from life. A special form of devotion and a peculiarly high sense of duty are required to face the last bullets in a victorious campaign.

"MIGHTY WEAPON OF AIR POWER"

F.-M. MONTGOMERY THANKS THE R.A.F.

Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery has sent the following message to the Chief of the Air Staff, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Charles Portal:—

In 21 Army Group we have no Germans left to fight in western Europe.

At this historic moment I feel I would like to express to you, the head of the Royal Air Force, the deep sense of gratitude that we soldiers owe to you and your splendid force. The mighty weapon of air power has enabled us, firstly, to win a great victory quickly, and secondly, to win that victory with fewer casualties than would otherwise have been the case. We are all deeply conscious of these facts. The brave and brilliant work of your gallant pilots and crews, and the devotion to duty of the ground staffs, have aroused our profound admiration.

I would be grateful if you would convey the gratitude of myself and of all those serving under me to all your commanders, both senior and junior, and to all ranks throughout the Royal Air Force. And perhaps you would include a special word of greeting and good wishes from myself personally to every officer and man in the Royal Air Force.

SIR C. PORTAL'S REPLY

The Chief of the Air Staff has replied:—

I am profoundly moved by your most generous message, which will be passed to all ranks in the Royal Air Force. From the landing in Normandy until this hour of victory, all of us in the Royal Air Force have felt the highest admiration for the endurance, courage, and skill of the officers and men of 21 Army Group, and for the wonderful success of the battles they have fought under your brilliant leadership. We count it a high honour to have had the opportunity to speed your advance, and the thought that we may have been able to reduce the casualties suffered by your gallant men has given us all the greatest possible satisfaction. Your splendid tribute will be received with deep pride and gratitude by all ranks of the Royal Air Force, and of the Dominion and allied air forces who have served with us. May I on their behalf send you and all your men our heartfelt congratulations on the great achievements of 21 Army Group?

TRAINS AND BUSES

NORMAL SERVICES TO-DAY

To-day (VE Day) normal week-day services will be run on the main line railways. Where necessary, relief trains will be run in the late evening to ease heavily pressed suburban services.

To-morrow (VE Day plus 1) Sunday services will be operated, with an early morning, and where necessary late evening, service on branch lines which are normally closed on Sundays. Freight services will not be operated to-morrow except for the movement of perishables, livestock, and military traffic.

London Transport announce the following arrangements:—

VE Day.—Underground railways, central buses, trams and trolleybuses, and country buses, ordinary weekday services.

VE Day+1.—Underground railways, central buses, and trams and trolleybuses, normal Sunday services; country buses, ordinary weekday services, but first journeys not until about 9 a.m.

LONDON SEARCHLIGHT DISPLAY TO-NIGHT

There will be an A.A. searchlight display over central London and London suburbs both to-night and to-morrow night from 11.45 p.m. to 12.15 a.m.

Workmen were busy in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace yesterday putting in position the batteries of powerful electric lamps which will floodlight the Palace to-night.

FREEDOM OF BELFAST FOR WAR LEADERS

General Eisenhower, Field-Marshal Montgomery, and Field-Marshal Alexander have been elected as Freemen of Belfast. A similar honour has been offered to Mr. Churchill, and it is hoped that it will be possible to arrange for all four to receive the freedom on the same day.

In a letter to the General Purposes Committee of the city council, General Eisenhower said that he would regard it as a high distinction to receive the Freedom of Belfast, and he looked forward with great pleasure to the time when he would receive it.

"GERMANY HAS SUCCUMBED"

HIGH COMMAND'S SURRENDER

BROADCAST BY KROSIGK

Count Schwerin von Krosigk, the German Foreign Minister, broadcast the following announcement from Flensburg yesterday:—

German men and women,—The high command of the armed forces has to-day, at the order of Grand Admiral Dönitz, declared the unconditional surrender of all fighting German troops.

As the leading Minister of the Reich Government which the Grand Admiral has appointed for the dealing with the war tasks, I turn at this tragic moment of our history to the German nation. After a heroic fight of almost six years of incomparable hardness, Germany has succumbed to the overwhelming power of her enemies. To continue the war would only mean senseless bloodshed and a futile disintegration.

A Government which has feeling of responsibility for the future of its nation was compelled to act on the collapse of all physical and material forces and to demand of the enemy the cessation of hostilities. It was the noblest task of the Grand Admiral and of the Government supporting him, after the terrible sacrifices which the war demanded, to save in the last phase of the war the lives of a maximum number of fellow countrymen. That the war was not ended immediately, simultaneously in the west and in the east, is to be explained by this reason alone.

We end this gravest hour of the German nation and its Reich. In this gravest hour of the German nation and its Reich, we bow in deep reverence before the dead of this war. Their sacrifices place the highest obligations on us. Our sympathy goes out above all to the wounded, the bereaved, and to all on whom this struggle has inflicted blows.

NO ILLUSIONS

No one must be under any illusions about the severity of the terms to be imposed on the German people by our enemies. We must now face our fate squarely and unquestioningly. Nobody can be in any doubt that the future will be difficult for each one of us, and will exact sacrifices from us in every sphere of life. We must accept this burden, and stand loyally by the obligations we have undertaken. But we must not despair and fall into mute resignation. Once again we must set ourselves to stride along a path through the dark future.

From the collapse of the past, let us preserve and save one thing, the unity of ideas of a national community which in the years of war have found their highest expression in the spirit of comradeship at the front and readiness to help one another in all the distress which has afflicted the homeland.

In our nation justice shall be the supreme law and the guiding principle. We must also recognize law as the basis of all relations between the nations. We must recognize it and respect it from inner conviction.

Respect for treaties will be as sacred as the aim of our nation to belong to the European family of nations as a member of which we want to mobilize all human, moral, and material forces in order to heal the dreadful wounds which the war has caused. Then we may hope that the atmosphere of hatred which to-day surrounds Germany all over the world will give place to a spirit of reconciliation among the nations without which the world cannot recover.—*Reuter.*

Count Schwerin von Krosigk also said:—

Then we may hope that our freedom will be restored to us, without which no nation can lead a bearable and dignified existence. We wish to devote the future of our nation to the return of the inmost and best forces of German nature, which have given to the world imperishable works and values.

We view with pride the heroic struggle of our people, and we shall combine with our pride in the heroic struggle of our people the will to contribute, as a member of western culture, honest, peaceful labour—a contribution which expresses the best traditions of our nation.

May God not forsake us in our distress and bless us in our heavy task.—*British United Press.*

GERMANS IN NORWAY

GEN. BÖHME'S ORDER OF THE DAY

An order of the day from General Böhme, German commander-in-chief in Norway, broadcast by Oslo wireless last night, stated:—

Soldiers in Norway, Count Schwerin von Krosigk, the Reich Foreign Minister, has pronounced the unconditional surrender of all forces. I know that this message is a hard blow to us. We are standing here in Norway, undefeated, strong as before. No enemy has dared to attack us. And yet we, too, shall have to bow to the dictate of our enemy for the benefit of the whole of the German cause. We trust we shall from now on deal with men who respect a soldier's honour.

We expect that the Norwegians will show the same discipline in their attitude towards the German soldier which he has shown towards them all the time.

As to you, my comrades, I expect that you will bear yourselves in an exemplary manner, which even the grimmest enemy cannot but in all fairness appreciate. Set your teeth, maintain discipline and order, be obedient to your superiors, remain what you have been—decent German soldiers who love their people and their country more than anything in the world.—*Reuter*

DÖNITZ'S ORDER TO U-BOATS

Flensburg wireless announced yesterday that on May 4, Grand Admiral Dönitz issued the order to U-boats to cease hostilities and to start their return journey. On this occasion he issued the following order of the day to his U-boat men:—

"My U-boat men, six years of U-boat warfare lie behind us. You have fought like lions. A crushing superiority has compressed us into a very narrow area. The continuation of the struggle is impossible from the bases which remain. U-boat men, unbroken in your warlike courage, you are laying down your arms after a heroic fight which knows no equal. In reverent memory we think of our comrades who have sealed their loyalty to the Führer and Fatherland with their death. Comrades, maintain in the future your U-boat spirit with which you have fought at sea, bravely and unflinchingly, during the long years for the welfare of our Fatherland. Long live Germany.—Your Grand Admiral."—*British United Press.*

THANKSGIVING IN DUBLIN

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

DUBLIN, MAY 7

An impromptu thanksgiving service was held in the Chapel of Trinity College, Dublin, this afternoon after the victory news had been unofficially received. The chapel was crowded to the doors with students and members of faculty.

70 DEGREES IN STRAITS

After a warm, sunny day the night sky in the Straits of Dover was flecked with cloud, but it was still fine and the barometer was steady; a light wind rippled the sea; the temperature reached 70deg. in the shade in the afternoon and was 59 at 10 p.m.

BRITISH FORCES MOVE IN

FIRST STAGE OF OCCUPATION

MONTGOMERY MEETS ROKOSSOVSKY

From Our Special Correspondent

NORTH-WEST GERMANY, MAY 7

The British and Canadian Armies have begun to move into the newly surrendered areas of Denmark, Germany, and Holland. This morning detachments of the Royal Dragoons, with their armoured-cars, arrived in Copenhagen to join the troops of the British 6th Airborne Division who had already flown to the Danish capital. The Guards Armoured Division sent advance elements into Cuxhaven, at the mouth of the Elbe and near the tip of the peninsula between the estuaries of that river and the Weser, wherein there are about 110,000 surrendered German troops. Other British troops are close to, if not already in, Bremerhaven.

Westward the forces of the Canadian Army are in full movement. The Canadian 3rd Infantry Division is in Emden and to the north of it, the Polish armour is in Wilhelmshaven and to the north, while the Canadian 2nd Infantry Division is spreading between Oldenburg and the left bank of the Weser. The British 49th Division this morning started for western Holland.

AT WILHELMSHAVEN

Reports from Wilhelmshaven state that the port has been badly damaged and all the ships lying in the harbour also. Among the ships is the cruiser Köln, which is sunk, with her deck awash. It is, however, believed that repairs can soon be made to enable ships up to about 8,000 tons to be taken into the port. Another report to-day says that the cruisers Nürnberg and Prinz Eugen have been surrendered with about 100,000 tons of merchant shipping, but where this shipping lies is not stated. The German prisoners captured by or surrendered to the British Second Army during the last few days include 7th generals.

This morning Field-Marshal Montgomery, the Commander-in-Chief of the 21st Army Group, met Marshal Rokossovsky at Wismar. This was their first meeting, and cordial greetings were exchanged. The Marshal and his staff had luncheon with the British Commander-in-Chief, and toasts were drunk to the allied armies, Mr. Churchill, Marshal Stalin, and Mr. Truman.

POLITICAL PRISONERS FREED

BLUM, SCHUSCHNIGG, AND NIEMÖLLER

ALLIED H.Q., MEDITERRANEAN, May 7.—M. Leon Blum, the former Prime Minister of France, Pastor Niemöller, the German Protestant pastor whose anti-Nazi sermons led to his arrest, and Dr. Kurt Schuschnigg, former Chancellor of Austria, are among the prisoners freed by the Fifth Army from the Prager Wildsee prison camp near Obbiaco.

Other prisoners found at the camp included Nikolas de Kallay, the former Hungarian Prime Minister, General Papagos, and two other Greek generals, Prince Philip of Hesse, husband of the late Princess Mafalda of Italy, who died in the Buchenwald camp, and Prince Xavier de Bourbon.—*Reuter.*

EIGHTH ARMY ENTERS AUSTRIA

A RABBLE OF PRISONERS

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WITH THE EIGHTH ARMY, MAY 7

Troops of the Eighth Army to-day crossed the Italian frontier into Austria at a point north of Udine.

This forward trek revealed an astonishing variety of satellite troops whom the Germans had left to their own resources. The Germans, obviously, had moved out from the villages and farms along the Alpine route with the utmost haste. At a guest house in Plockenhaus, just inside Austria, the soldiers' food in an abandoned kitchen was still warm. A motley crowd of prisoners drifted towards the advancing British, their main desire being to escape from the Italian partisans.

For the same reason the Germans, pressing on towards Austria, were followed by a rabble of non-German soldiers whom the peasants—the Austrian as well as the Italian—described as little more than bandits. At Hauthen, the first village in Austria beyond the mountain pass, a pitched battle broke out between German troops and so-called Cossacks—Russians who had been enlisted into the German Army—and the local garrison asked for permission to join the British tanks in an effort to quell the Russians.

LORD LASCELLES ARRIVES IN LONDON

Viscount Lascelles, the elder son of the Princess Royal and the Earl of Harewood, and the Master of Elphinstone, a nephew of the Queen, who were liberated from a German prisoner-of-war camp a few days ago, arrived in England yesterday by aeroplane. Last evening they were received by the King at Buckingham Palace, and were welcomed home by their Majesties and Princess Elizabeth.

The Princess Royal and the Earl of Harewood were yesterday officially informed of the liberation of Lord Lascelles, who had been a prisoner of war since last June. He is an officer in the Grenadier Guards.

The Princess Royal will be unable to attend the Women's Land Army rally at Preston on Saturday owing to the return of her son, and the rally has been postponed.

OBITUARY

We announce with regret the deaths of MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HARRY DAVIS WATSON, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., M.V.O., late Indian Army, and MRS. ISRAEL ZANGWILL, novelist and widow of the famous Zionist.

Memoirs, *The Times* list of Fallen Officers, and obituary notices of the Right Rev. Dr. A. E. Joscelyne and Sir William Lowrie Sleigh (whose deaths were briefly announced in our later editions yesterday) appear on page 8.

We also announce with regret that MR. HAROLD BRIGGS, Conservative M.P. for the Blackley Division of Manchester from 1918 to 1923 and from 1924 to 1929, died at his home at Chobham, Surrey, on Sunday. He was 74.

"THE TIMES"

In accordance with the expressed desire of the Government that workers generally should enjoy a holiday after the announcement of the cessation of hostilities in Europe, it has been arranged that newspaper workers shall take their holiday on the day after VE day. *The Times* will therefore not be published on Thursday.

CITIZENS REVOLT IN PRAGUE

CONFUSED SITUATION

From a Correspondent

Some months ago Dr. Benesh warned his countrymen that Prague would be the last European capital to be liberated, and that it could not escape its share of the fighting. The last moments of German resistance have been dramatic and confused.

Throughout the early hours of Saturday the Czechs, in control of Prague radio, issued appeals for speedy help from the Russians and General Patton. They said that without their help they could not cope with the 300 tanks which the Germans had at their command. Among the voices heard were those of three British soldiers. One gave his name as William Gleeg. The revolt in Prague was launched by the Czech National Committee in full collaboration with the Government in Kosice. The signal was given as soon as the Skoda workers in Pilsen had begun their May Day strike, which continued until the arrival of the Americans.

Dr. Benesh and his Government are ready to go to Prague at the shortest notice. They decided not to go to Bratislava when it was freed, but to remain in Kosice, in spite of the restricted accommodation. Conditions in Bratislava appear to be normal. It will become almost at once the headquarters of the Slovak National Committee. Marshal Malinovsky has agreed to extend greatly the area of eastern and central Czechoslovakia which reverts to civilian control.

The establishment of the Czech and Slovak National Committees, each of equal status, is a remarkable constitutional development and a departure from the centralizing policy of the pre-war Republic. In his latest speech Dr. Benesh has promised "a real people's republic in which the Czechs will administer their affairs in Bohemia and Moravia and the Slovaks in Slovakia."

In civilian liaison with General Patton and his staff is Dr. Ivo Duchacek, one of the most prominent of the younger Czechoslovak diplomats, who worked in London for five years in close association with Dr. Hubert Ripka.

THIRD ARMY'S ADVANCE SINCE NORMANDY

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IN BAVARIA, MAY 7

Jumping off for the last time, columns of the 4th Armoured Division drove 25 miles to points 50 miles south-west and 50 miles south of Prague to achieve for General Patton's army a penetration of Europe from the starting-point on the beaches of Normandy of over 700 miles.

In general, resistance on the Third Army front has been almost completely lacking, but south-west of Linz 2,000 S.S. troops, obstinate to the end, called for the usual stern treatment. A curious capture made in the Linz area was of 167 men and 196 dogs of a dog replacement training battalion. It is estimated that 40,000 prisoners were taken on this front yesterday. The Third Army's grand total is now 731,176.

PRAGUE GERMANS KEEP FIGHTING

A broadcast from Prague yesterday said:—

"The report broadcast at mid-day to-day (Monday) by the enemy station at Flensburg saying that the Reich Government has capitulated unconditionally to the Soviet Union as well does not correspond to the facts. It is clearly enemy propaganda, intent on breaking our troops' will to resist.

"The Reich Government has ceased the fight only against the western Powers. In our area the struggle will be continued until the Germans in the east are saved and until our way back into the homeland is secured."—*Reuter.*

IN CAPTURED PILSEN

GERMAN COMMANDER BLOWS OUT HIS BRAINS

PILSEN, May 7.—Lieutenant-General Majewlski, the general commanding the German garrison of Pilsen, blew out his brains after surrendering with his staff to the American forces which entered the city yesterday.

He shot himself with an American automatic in the presence of his wife and staff officers, who tried to talk him out of suicide.

Since General Patton's tanks rolled into this city, the third largest in Czechoslovakia, at 8 o'clock yesterday morning, the population have been dancing with joy at their liberation, and openly singing the Czech National Anthem for the first time for six years. When the tanks first came in, snipers fired under cover of white flags, and street battles between Czech patriots and German snipers continued for several hours in the centre of the city. The crowds did not wait for the shooting to stop to begin their singing and dancing and to cheer the American troops. It was just like the liberation scenes in France, with wine, flowers, and kisses.

The Germans were surrendering everywhere, and 4,000 of them were soon crowding down the roads without guards, and even driving their own lorries loaded with prisoners.

Czech patriots publicly executed two men in the streets, and the crowds beat up a number of others who had been working for the Germans.

The great Skoda works were 40 per cent. destroyed by allied bombing, but only became idle 10 days ago after the most recent attack. They had been turning out very little heavy equipment in the last six months, as there were no materials and no fuel supplies. An engineer of the Skoda works told me that the Germans were now bombing Prague, and fires were burning in the city, where patriots were fighting the Germans and calling for allied help.—*Reuter.*

THE END AT BRESLAU

CAPITULATION AFTER 82 DAYS

In an order of the day addressed to Marshal Konev and General Petrov, Marshal Stalin announced last night:—

"Forces of the 1st Ukrainian command, after a prolonged siege, to-day completely captured the town and fortress of Breslau.

"The garrison of the town, headed by the commandant of the fortress, Infantry General von Nikols, and his staff, ceased resistance, laid down their arms, and surrendered. Up to 7 o'clock to-night our troops had taken prisoner more than 40,000 Germans in Breslau.

Breslau, capital of Lower Silesia, has fallen after a siege of 82 days. It was completely invested on February 14, and since then it has been crumbling to pieces, block by block, in bitter street fighting. Breslau, with a population of about 700,000, is an important manufacturing centre and a vital hub of communications serving the industries of Upper Silesia.

GOEBBELS'S SUICIDE BY POISON

A RUSSIAN REPORT

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes:—

According to a Russian report received in London yesterday, the bodies of Goebbels, his wife, and all his children have been found in an air raid shelter in Berlin. Death was due to poisoning.

No trace has yet been discovered of Hitler and Göring, and some Russians persist in believing that both have gone into hiding. Nor is anything known of the whereabouts of such leaders as Ribbentrop and Ley.

TWO MORE RUSSIAN DELEGATIONS

ARRIVAL AT SAN FRANCISCO

SHOCK OVER POLAND

From Our Special Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 7

The Ukrainian delegation, headed by Mr. Manuilsky, and the White Russian, headed by Mr. Kiselev, arrived here yesterday after flying 15,000 miles to attend the conference to which both delegations were admitted by unanimous vote a week ago.

Their arrival has given fresh emphasis to the absence of the Polish representatives—an issue which is suspended until there is further explanation from the Russian Government about the arrest of the Polish democratic leaders. This development has come as a great shock to delegates, although they are anxious not to let it interfere with the main work of the conference.

That work was continued to-day when the leaders of the British, American, Russian, Chinese, and French delegations resumed their discussions of trusteeships, seeking to harmonize views which diverge, particularly the British and American, on proposals for the treatment of strategic areas. Several other committees have also been in consultation during the day.

RUSSIAN EYES ON THE CONFERENCE

EAGERNESS FOR AN END TO FASCISM

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MOSCOW, MAY 7

The week-end brought extensive comment on the San Francisco conference, particularly on the Argentine question.

The decision to invite delegates of the Farrell Government to the conference of the United Nations is presented as a setback for the cause, in which the major allies are believed to be fundamentally at one, of following up military victory by the active discouragement of all régimes where reactionary classes or groups exercise dictatorial power against progressive movements. It had been hoped that the recent revelations of German atrocities, an object lesson in what Fascist doctrine can do even to people with the humane tradition of the Germans, had brought about a stiffening of world opinion against any régime tinged with that doctrine.

The keenest interest is being taken in the progress of the conference. The average Russian is reading the reports in search of some hint of the kind of world that will emerge from the war. He believes that the pace at which the material conditions of life will improve in the post-war period will depend directly on the amount of confidence his Government has in the efficacy of the collective security system.

In this connexion Mr. Molotov's speech on the question of inviting Argentina caused some disquiet, for it seemed to reveal differences of approach between the major allies on an issue about which the Russian people knew their Government to be uncompromising—the issue known here as "the moral and political defeat of Fascism."

M. SPAAK LEAVING SAN FRANCISCO

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BRUSSELS, MAY 7

It is learned that the Belgian Foreign Minister, M. Spaak, has been recalled from San Francisco by the Prime Minister in connexion with the tension between the Catholic and Socialist Parties concerning the resumption of the royal prerogatives. He is expected in Brussels on Wednesday.

THE ARRESTED POLISH LEADERS

M. MIKOLAJCZYK'S STATEMENT

M. Mikolajczyk, the former Polish Prime Minister, stated yesterday that he was preparing a detailed statement on the arrest of representatives of the democratic parties by Soviet authorities.

In the meantime, he said, the arrested leaders could not be accused of "diversionary acts" against the Soviet armed forces as they were sincere advocates of a Polish-Soviet understanding and they themselves took the initiative to reveal the political parties in Poland.

M. Mikolajczyk added that to-day, when the war was coming to an end and when the question of keeping the promises of a strong, free, and independent Poland rose—promises solemnly reaffirmed in the Crimean Declaration—the liberation of these democratic leaders of the nation and the honest execution of the Crimean resolutions were an imperative necessity.

WARSAW POLES ON "HIGH TREASON"

The Warsaw Provisional Government radio last night used the term "high treason" in connexion with the arrest of General Okulicki, Commander-in-Chief of the Polish home army, and his 15 colleagues.

"Public opinion in Poland received with indignation the news of the action of Okulicki and his accomplices who are accused of carrying out diversionary activities against the Red Army," the radio said. "Because the criminal activities of Okulicki and his accomplices were also directed against the reborn Polish State, they constitute high treason. The Provisional Government reserves the right to demand that Okulicki and his accomplices be turned over to the Polish authorities in order to be indicted in the Courts of the Republic as well."—*Reuter*

TWO U-BOATS SUNK

ROCKET ATTACKS BY MOSQUITOES

Two U-boats travelling in line astern were recently attacked and sunk by Mosquitoes of R.A.F. Coastal Command. The Mosquitoes made the round trip of approximately 1,200 miles from their base to the target area in daylight. The attacks were carried out with rockets and cannon.

After the first U-boat had been attacked it started to sink stern first and then blew up, hurling débris high into the air. The second U-boat exploded and sank, leaving débris and survivors in the water.

CORVETTE LOST

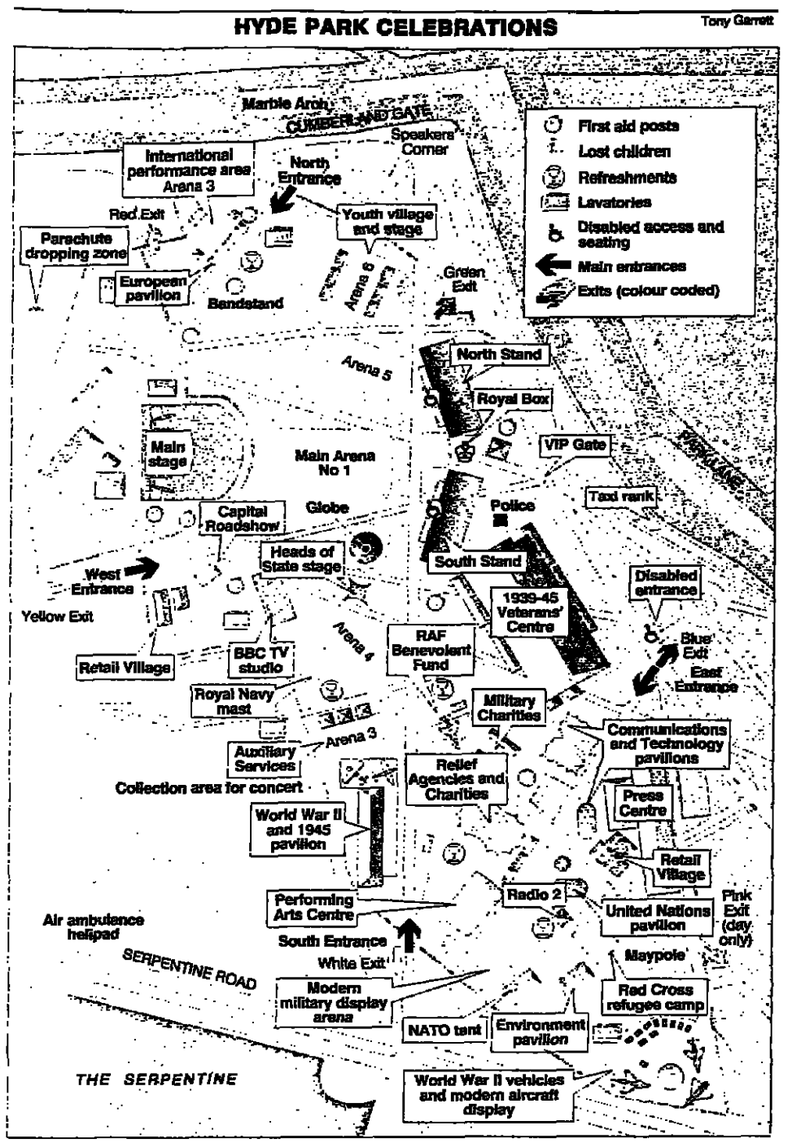
The Admiralty announces that H.M. corvette Denbigh Castle (Lieutenant-Commander G. Butcher, D.S.C., R.N.V.R.), has been lost. The next-of-kin of casualties have been informed.

It has been learnt that Lieutenant-Commander Butcher is a survivor.

INVALIDS

MR. F. A. COOPER, Premier of Queensland, who has been suffering from ear trouble, has undergone a successful operation in a London nursing home, where he will remain for a few days.

LORD JUSTICE MORTON, who has a chill, was unable to attend in the Court of Appeal yesterday.



London remembers with fireworks, concerts and displays

Guide to weekend's events

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

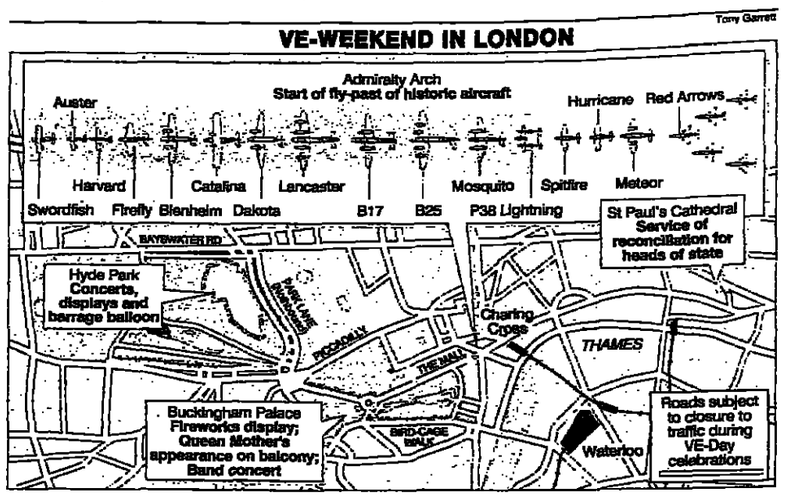
THOUSANDS of street parties and hundreds of concerts are being planned to mark Britain's celebrations of VE-Day this weekend, but the focus will be the bands, exhibitions and displays in Hyde Park, London.

Entry to the site is free. The gates open to the public at 10am today, tomorrow and Monday, and close at 5.30pm tomorrow, and 5pm today and Monday.

Tomorrow, the Youth and International Day, standing room in the arena is available free to the public throughout the day. Tickets are required, however, for the Royal British Legion concert today and the VE night concert on Monday. Although thousands of tickets have been allocated to veterans' organisations, a handful of returns may still be available by telephoning (0181) 204 1234.

Visitors are being encouraged to use public transport to and from Hyde Park and other locations. There is no additional parking available in or around the park. The usual parking facilities in the immediate area will be suspended, with restrictions enforced; this includes the closure of the NCP car park in Hyde Park. Extra taxi-ranks will be provided in Park Lane. Motorists should avoid Hyde Park and St James's Park.

Police say access roads to The Mall, Hyde Park and St Paul's Cathedral will be closed for security reasons and motorists should plan their routes carefully (see accompanying map).



London Underground plans to operate a full train service throughout the weekend, with services extended each night to 1am. All Second World War veterans will be able to travel free, and there will be a special souvenir ticket on sale to the public offering three days of travel at a special rate.

The timetable for **tomorrow** starts at **11am** with a service of reconciliation and hope at St Paul's Cathedral, attended by the Royal Family, heads of state from 56 countries, and Second World War veterans.

At **3.15pm**, heads of state, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Harry, the Princess Royal and the Prime Minister will arrive at Hyde Park, followed by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. A reconciliation ceremony, for ticket-holders only, begins at **4.15pm**, and 30 minutes later the Queen will leave and Prince Edward will meet war veterans. At **5.45pm** the Prime Minister and Prince Edward will leave.

The public will be able to see the ceremony from near the south stand in the park.

On **Monday**, a band concert with audience singing, led by Dame Vera Lynn, Sir Harry Secombe and Cliff Richard will be held in front of Buckingham Palace. Admission to the forecourt is for veterans with tickets only, but the public will be able to watch the concert free from The Mall.

At **12.30pm** the Queen Mother will walk on to the balcony at Buckingham Palace where she took her place 50 years ago to wave to crowds in the Mall. A minute later she will be joined by the Queen and Princess Margaret.

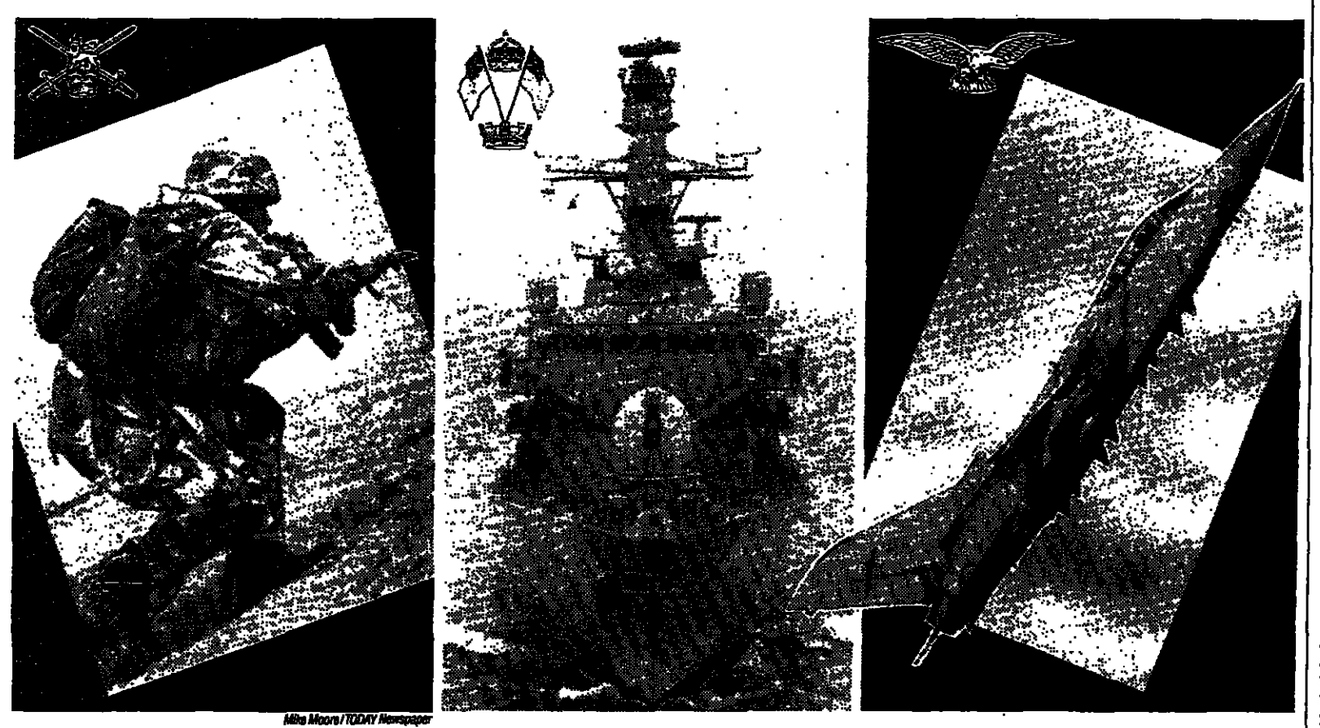
At **12.43pm** there will be a flypast over central London by historic warplanes in the following order: Swordfish, Auster, Harvard, Firefly, Blenheim, Catalina, Dakota, Lancaster, B17, B25, Mosquito, P38 Lightning, Spitfire, Hurricane, and Meteor, with nine Red Arrows in a V-formation bringing up the rear. The best viewing spot will be in The Mall, as the aircraft will fly from Admiralty Arch, near Trafalgar Square, down the Mall and over Buckingham Palace. A spectacular daylight fireworks display near the Palace is scheduled for **12.55pm**. The final big event of the weekend celebrations is the Queen's visit to Hyde Park at **8.30pm**. A two-minute, nationwide silence will begin at **8.38pm**, followed by the lighting of the Hyde Park beacon and the simultaneous lighting across the country of beacons, bonfires, and the staging of street parties to mark 50 years of peace and reconciliation.

At **9pm** the Queen will start a laser show and a huge concert will begin in the park, featuring Dame Vera Lynn and the original Tiller Girls. At **9.45pm** there will be a second firework display in Hyde Park, and at **10.30pm** the Queen will leave.

A 70ft flower-covered globe will feature in the ceremonies tomorrow, and visitors will be able to trace the history of the wartime campaigns that led to VE-Day in covered pavilions. Other displays will highlight life on the home front.

For wartime veterans wishing to make contact with former colleagues, there will be an even larger reception pavilion than was provided for the 1994 D-Day events.

The Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane is running an exhibition of photographs portraying the brighter side of life during the war. *Amazing Grace: Social Life in London 1939-1945* runs until June 3 and shows how the people of London kept their sense of fun and style even when they were faced with deprivation and destruction.



Mike Moore / TODAY Newspaper

All-star cricket at The Oval

HERE is a list of weekend events in and around London:

Today

London: The Bunbury Cricket Match, The Oval. A star cast including Gary Lineker, Linford Christie, Peter Scudamore, Bill Wyman, Roger Daltrey, Rory Bremner and David Essex will play England team members. Tickets (0171) 582 7764.

London: VE-Day Celebration Concert, with The World Choir, Hyde Park. Dame Vera Lynn, Elaine Paige, Ute Lemper and Cliff Richard are among the performers. Seating is limited but there is free access for those who do not wish to sit. (0171) 973 0633.

London: Thames Match, River Thames. Sailing barges will sail from the Lower Hope Point to the Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend. (01273) 890328.

Northamptonshire: VE-Day Golden Jubilee Commemorations, Festival Hall, Corby, until Monday. (01563) 402233.

Essex: VE-Day Commemorations, Colchester, until May 8. (01206 282249).

Monday

Nationwide: Chain of beacons and bonfires; street parties.

London: VE-Day events, Winston Churchill's Britain at War Theme Museum. (0171) 403 3171. *Anne Frank in the World*, RAF Museum, free. (0181) 205 2266.

Essex: VE celebrations, Harlow park. (01279) 446701.

Flag firm maintains the royal standard

TONY WHITE



Joanna Cross finishes off the Dominican flag

JOANNA CROSS of Black and Edgington, the Queen's flagmaker, put the final touches yesterday to a new flag for Dominica, the Windward island. The flag will fly with those of the other Commonwealth nations in Parliament Square today as the VE-Day events get under way.

The company, which dates back to 1795, has been at full stretch for weeks to meet the extra demand in the run-up to scores of events and parties around the country this weekend.

Among its main orders have been two sets of 60 heads-of-state flags measuring 9ft by 6ft for Hyde Park and 100 large Union Flags for The Mall and the Queen Victoria Memorial Gardens in London.

Nick Farley, manager of the flags and textiles division of the firm, based in Orpington, Kent, said he hopes the resurgence in patriotism evident in the past few weeks will continue. He said that the company has sold out of its 6ft by 3ft Union Flags. "This week we've probably sold 150 of them. Bearing in mind they are £38 a time, it is clear people don't seem to mind the cost as long as they are getting a good-quality flag," he said.

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هكذا من الأصل

Rising popularity of outspoken critic in ranks of Russian army heightens Kremlin unease

General awaits call to arms



MOSCOW FILE
by RICHARD BEESTON

WITH a mixture of pride and nostalgia, Russians will turn out next week to applaud their armed forces, 50 years after the men and women of the Soviet military stormed Berlin.

However, when General Aleksandr Lebed sees the massed ranks of infantry, he will be contemplating not just the Red Army's finest hour. The outspoken and popular general believes that the military saved the nation from the Nazis and that it is, moreover, the only institution capable of saving Russia from itself.

As commander of the 14th Army based in Moldavia, General Lebed, 44, may be a relatively minor figure in military terms, but the paratrooper, Afghan war hero and would-be politician is easily the most popular soldier in Russia's two million man army and is enjoying growing support among civilians. An unabashed fan of Augusto Pinochet, Chile's former leader, General Lebed said recently: "I joined the armed forces 25 years ago and still love military service and want to carry on. "But these are troubled times. Everything is so confused you can't tell military issues from political ones."

Few soldiers are as well placed to judge as the general. In August 1991, when he was a paratroop commander, he refused to obey orders from the communist coup leaders to attack pro-democracy demonstrators and instead came to the assistance of President Yeltsin, who was besieged in the White House.

But as General Lebed's popularity soared, helped in large part by a slick personal publicity operation, he has increasingly come into conflict with the Kremlin, which mistrusts his high profile and fears his influence over the army. The general expounds on every key issue facing Russia and usually strikes a popular chord.

He condemns Moscow for "running after Western aid like a goat chasing a carrot", promises to stamp out crime and corruption, and even hints that he could put right most of the country's ills in three days at the helm.

Under normal circumstances, President Yeltsin could afford to ignore his officer's insubordination, were it not for General Lebed's stinging criticisms of the conduct of the disastrous campaign in Chechenia and the proximity of presidential elections scheduled for next year.

Whether General Lebed will be seeking election has yet to be seen. Pavel Felgenhauer, the defence correspondent of the Daily *Segodnya* newspaper, pointed out this week that one thing is certain. "The Russian Army will be parading on Victory Day not to salute Yeltsin, but to show the world it is still there."



General Lebed, who believes the army can save Russia from itself

Guard for Grozny marchers

WHILE soldiers around Europe must be thoroughly bored with the endless drill, polish and other preparations needed for military parades, they should consider themselves lucky.

For the unfortunate garrison of Russian troops stationed in Grozny, the Chechen capital, the VE-Day celebrations are going ahead for next week in spite of an upsurge in fighting around the city. The parade promises to be a surreal event as some soldiers will march in the devastated city centre, while the rest will have to protect them from Chechen snipers.

The irony is that Grozny emerged relatively unscathed from the Second World War and, as Chechens are quick to remind newcomers, the Germans caused far less damage when they invaded the Caucasus than the Russians did this year.

Spring brings ordeal for new conscripts

WHILE most Russians are celebrating the end of their six-month winter, for hundreds of thousands of teenage boys spring heralded a different ordeal.

The annual conscription of 18-year-olds is now under way, causing panic among high school pupils, who with the help of parents and friends are desperately trying to find a way out of their two-year duty. Military service used to be regarded as an honour, but there is now little incentive to serve in the armed forces.

Conditions for conscripts are generally appalling, with low pay, bad food and regular accounts of bullying. Since the start of the conflict in Chechenia, not to mention the ongoing fighting in Tajikistan, there is also the very real danger of being killed or wounded.

According to experts, there are several ways to escape conscription: never answer any post and if necessary, move home; bribe your recruiting officer to remove your name from the list (the going rate is about £4,375); bribe a doctor to give you a medical deferment, or go abroad.

This year, however, the authorities have promised to crack down on dodgers, estimated at nearly 12,000 last year, and President Yeltsin has increased military service by six months to beef up the thinning ranks.

UN and Croatia dispute alleged rights violations

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN ZAGREB AND JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

AS CROAT troops consolidated their positions around the Serbian enclave in western Slavonia, a new and damaging dispute erupted between the United Nations peacekeepers and Croatian authorities over allegations of human rights violations in the newly occupied territory.

The UN Security Council had condemned Croat excesses and stunned foreign diplomats in Croatia by calling for a return to the status quo of May 1, before the Croat offensive.

"The UN is living like Alice in Wonderland, totally disconnected from the reality of the situation," a senior Western diplomat in Zagreb said.

Meanwhile UN spokesmen in the Croatian capital again condemned the actions of the victorious Croat troops, citing incidents of widespread looting of Serb houses and the separation and detention of Serb families remaining in the area.

However, independent witnesses to the action commented only on the discipline and restraint shown by Croatian forces in the area of fighting, which the UN left on Thursday.

"There was no sign of looting," a foreign journalist said. "By Balkan standards, the aftermath of the action was exemplary in its evenhandedness. The Serbs seemed surprised by how well they were treated."

The UN reports, which Chris Gunnes, its spokesman in Zagreb, said had "their authenticity discussed at the highest level", seemed based on little more than the hearsay accounts of European Community monitors present in western Slavonia.

In particular, they cited the rounding up of Serb civilians and soldiers late on Thursday by the Croats, before the detention of the men in two separate holding centres, as evidence of human rights violations.

Yet at the detention centres the Serbs received food and medical attention and were visited by the International Committee for the Red Cross. "There is no evidence of human rights abuses yet; the UN is going well over the top here," the diplomatic source said amid a flurry of Croatian government denials.

The UN has often discredited factions among the Balkan combatants to dampen their belligerence and strengthen credibility in its own presence there.

Ironically, western Slavonia, the scene of many Serb atrocities in 1991, was the only Serb-held area of Croatia where the December peace accord of last year — that opened routes for trade and travel between the two sides — had worked.

Last Friday a Croatian man slit the throat of a Serb at a fuel station on the crucial motorway that bisects the enclave. The Croat said he had recognised the Serb as the killer of his brother in 1991. In response, the Serb's brother killed and wounded several Croats with a Kalashnikov. Serb forces then closed the motorway, initiating the offensive by the Croats.

Yesterday, rebel Serb gunners unleashed a furious artillery barrage on a Croat-held pocket just inside Bosnia, possibly in retaliation for losses across the border in Croatia this week. In three hours the two sides fired about 2,000 shells around the northern, Serb-held town of Brcko, a Bosnian Croat army officer told the UN, which confirmed an unusually intense artillery attack in the area. Apparently, most fell on the Croat-held Orasje pocket inside Bosnia.



Novelist put on trial in Istanbul

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

YASHAR KEMAL, Turkey's most distinguished novelist, went on trial yesterday charged with disseminating propaganda aimed at destroying the integrity of the State. The charges refer to an article in the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, in which he attacked army brutality in the Kurdish southeast.

Mr Kemal, 73, explained before a crowded Istanbul court that his purpose had been to preserve the friendship between Turk and Kurd for the day when "the bloody and dirty war" in the southeast came to an end. The author, charged under a watered-down version of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, accused the prosecutor of interfering with the integrity of his writing by not bothering to read the offending piece.

The trial, which was adjourned until July 12, is the latest embarrassment for the Government, which is under pressure from European allies to improve its rights record.

Gangsters led luxury jail life

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

JAILED gangsters of the Camorra, the Naples version of the Mafia, received champagne, caviar and weapons in their cells and watched women perform strip shows organised by warders, it was disclosed yesterday.

The governor of the Fuorni prison at Salerno, south of Naples, was arrested with 14 warders and they were incarcerated in two military prisons after being charged with organising a life of luxury for Carmine Alfieri and Pasquale Galasso, the Camorra bosses, judicial sources said.

Supergrasses, including Galasso who turned state's evidence, said that one prison officer, Michele Grimaldi, received a monthly "salary" of 4 million lire (£1,500) for providing inmates with mobile phones and knives and for organising striptease performances outside Galasso's cell window. Other warders received Rolex watches, jewels, cars and holiday homes in return for favours.

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Rattled and defensive Chirac pleads with voters to block Jospin's path to the Elysée Palace

European debate injects venom into campaign finale

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THE long French election campaign closed last night in a squabble over Europe, with Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist candidate, pleading with voters to block the path of Lionel Jospin, the Socialist who has come to within striking distance of being elected President tomorrow.

"There is a real Jospin danger," M Chirac said, urging conservatives to vote. "The only question" they had to decide was: "Do the French really want to entrust the affairs of France to the hands of M Jospin and his Socialist friends for seven more years?"

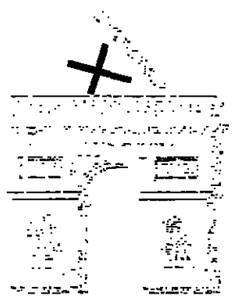
The Socialist hit back, saying: "Perhaps there is a Jospin danger, but the danger is not for France. It is for Jacques Chirac." M Jospin forecast in a four-city tour yesterday that he would follow his surprise in the first round with a new upset. "A dynamic has been created which goes far beyond the borders of political parties," he said.

M Chirac's oddly defensive plea reflected the near-panic in his camp as it has watched his lead crumble towards the 50 per cent mark from a ten-point margin after the first round on April 23, according to private polls. Yesterday his supporters struggled to handle the fallout from an overture by M Chirac towards Eurosceptics which may have won some votes but opened him to attack from M Jospin.

The fuss centred on a sudden promise by M Chirac to call a referendum on the future shape of Europe after the EU Inter-Governmental Conference next year.

Although M Chirac diluted his idea yesterday, M Jospin and his team, staunchly committed to European union, tore into him for toying with the future of France and for reverting to his old image as an unpredictable populist. "One has to wonder about the stability of M Chirac's decision-making," said M Jospin. "I do not think that you have to question the French on Maastricht at every step." Jacques Delors, the elder statesman of M Jospin's campaign, mocked M Chirac as a "weather vane" and said he was "bad for France. Chirac used to change once a year. Now he's changing every day," he said. The Gaullist denounced the former EU Commission President as "indecent".

Such name-calling has marked the final days of the most domestically focused presidential campaign for decades. The eruption of Europe as a last-minute theme only highlighted the extraordinary absence until now from the campaign of any debate among mainstream candi-



FRENCH ELECTION

dates over France's future in the Union or its role in the world. "It is as if the whole election is being held in a vacuum," *Le Monde* said.

Each candidate has tried to demonise the other as perilous for France. While M Jospin, 57, has painted M Chirac, 62, as an unpredictable man of the past and a hardline conservative, the Gaullist has been busy predicting chaos should another Socialist succeed President Mitterrand.

Philippe Séguin, a Chirac lieutenant, said that France would succumb to Italian-style paralysis. The argument is based on M Jospin's need, if elected, to call an immediate general election to try to ensure a parliamentary majority. Because the Gaullists and their Centre Right allies won an overwhelming majority in 1993 and 60 per cent of the country voted for conservatives last month, it would seem unlikely that voters would give parliamentary power to the Left. That would then lead to another unsatisfactory period of "cohabitation" like the one now ending.

M Jospin, however, says that if voters pick him, they will also return a parliament favourable to him, as they did when M Mitterrand won the presidency in 1981 and 1988. Either way, M Jospin would start out, on taking office around May 15, by appointing a caretaker administration probably headed by Martine Aubry, M Delors' popular daughter. M Chirac has promised not to dissolve parliament but to work with the existing majority.

Whether France opts for a President Jospin or a President Chirac, the new Government is expected to draw heavily on younger politicians. Only a few senior ministers are expected to come from the ranks of the old guard who sat in the three Socialist and two Gaullist Governments of the past decade.

As M Chirac led his final campaign rally in Lyons last night, few politicians were putting any trust in the polls, given their failure to signal the winning order in the first round. The electorate has rarely been more volatile, after voting in record numbers for protest candidates in the first round.

Some are betting that the result could be as close as the 1.62 percentage-point margin that sent Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to the Elysée Palace in 1974 instead of François Mitterrand. In 1981, M Mitterrand reversed the order, winning by 3.6 points. In 1988, he widened the gap, beating M Chirac by eight points.





Either Alain Juppé, the Gaullist, or Martine Aubry, the Socialist daughter of Jacques Delors, is likely to be asked to be Prime Minister

Juppé certain to be rewarded for loyalty

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

IF JACQUES CHIRAC wins tomorrow it is considered certain that his choice for Prime Minister will be Alain Juppé, the loyal lieutenant who has proved himself a key figure in the campaign and as an internationally admired Foreign Minister.

The word "brilliant" usually accompanies references to M Juppé, 49. The son of a Gascony farmer, M Juppé has been M Chirac's chief collaborator for almost two decades and interim leader of the Gaullist party since November. At the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the post-graduate nursery of the governing class, fellow students were so dazzled by the Juppé brain they nicknamed him "Amstrad". As Foreign Minister under Edouard Balladur, the tall, bald, brisk-mannered M Juppé has earned praise from such various sources as President Mitterrand, Douglas Hurd and the Serbian leaders whom he browbeat over Bosnia. The British Foreign Secretary calls his French colleague a star. M Mitterrand is impressed with the way M Juppé has run France's foreign business, notably winning a good compromise on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) world trade accord, while avoiding the clashes that marred the "cohabitation" government of the 1980s.

M Juppé has succeeded in his months as M Chirac's campaign leader in softening his image as the epitome of the steely technocrats who dominate the public administration. However those on the wrong side of his formidable mind often depict him as intolerant.

M Balladur, whose defeat was clinched by M Juppé's success in rallying the Chirac loyalists, talks acidly of his minister in private. Lionel Jospin said he had watched M Juppé progress since he entered public life as a Paris city councillor in 1978. "He has a formidable arrogance, verging on disdain that shocks even his allies." M Jospin said. "I thought he had changed, but he hasn't."

M Juppé is expected, if appointed, to draw up a government list dominated by a younger generation. Top jobs will go to those who stuck with M Chirac. These include Alain Madelin, the business affairs minister, Jacques Toubon, the Culture Minister and Philippe Séguin, the parliamentary Speaker.

Daughter of Delors is tipped for premiership

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

SOCIALIST Party members are in no doubt who they would like to see appointed as French Prime Minister. "Lionel to the Elysée, Martine to the Mâtignon," they have shouted at campaign rallies.

In reply, Martine Aubry, 44, has offered only smiles, maintaining a silence that respects constitutional convention but does nothing to dampen speculation.

Commentators are convinced that she had only one serious rival for the premiership, her father, Jacques Delors, the former President of the European Commission. Since he appears to have ruled out taking the job, Mme Aubry is seen as a certainty to succeed Edouard Balladur in the Mâtignon if M Jospin wins.

Should Mme Aubry be appointed, it will complete a rise of bewildering speed. A product of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration that forms much of the French élite, she was, until 1991, a high-flying civil servant and then an industrialist, whose political experience was limited to the lessons handed down by her father.

In that year, however, President Mitterrand plucked her from relative obscurity to become Employment Minister. Amid the wreckage of the last years of Socialist government, Mme Aubry was one of the few successes, earning a measure of personal popularity that was boosted by her subsequent campaigns for the unemployed.

Appointed spokesman for M Jospin at the start of his campaign in February, she has again proved to be a valuable asset, providing not just a fresh face but also surprising pugnacity. Indeed, with her father, she has been largely responsible for transforming the Socialist candidate's image.

Yet doubts remain. Married to an accountant with whom she has a daughter, Mme Aubry has never run for office, saying she wanted to spare her family the stress. Opponents say her reluctance to go before the voters is indicative of a fragile ego that would cope badly with the rough and tumble of the premiership.

For his part, M Delors seems to want to play a role as the wise old man of politics, outside the Cabinet. But there is a chance that he could be tempted by the post of Foreign Minister, raising the prospect of a Government led by a daughter-father team.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Oklahoma body hunt called off

Washington: The search for victims in the Oklahoma City bombing ended yesterday as rescue teams gathered for a final memorial to the dead (Tom Rhodes writes).

After two weeks of digging through the rubble of the Alfred Murrah Building, firefighters walked out of the debris for the last time. The explosion killed 167 people, including two adults who have not been found and 19 children. Among the last bodies to be removed were those of three babies who had been in the children's day care centre on the second floor.

Offensive ends

Ankara: Turkey announced the end of the six-week offensive against rebel Kurds in northern Iraq which strained relations with the West. A statement said: "All troops have returned home." *(Reuter)*

Briton stabbed

Maputo: Polly Gaster, 51, an English director of the Mozambican government bookshop, was in a stable condition after being stabbed here. Police say that there was no political motive. *(Reuter)*

Bank head dies

Washington: Lewis Preston, president of the World Bank and former chief executive of J. P. Morgan and Co, has died. Mr Preston, 68, had cancer and was due to retire at the end of this month. *(Reuter)*

Poll promised

Alma Ata: President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan has said that he will hold a referendum in August to change the national constitution and to pave the way for elections to a new parliament. *(Reuter)*

Outlook poor

Rostov-on-Don: Thousands of passengers were stranded when southern Russia's largest airport here was shut down for safety reasons because it had failed to pay for its weather forecasts. *(AP)*

Russians break Chechen truce

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday broke its unilateral ceasefire in Chechenia when it launched punitive air and artillery bombardments against a suspected rebel stronghold south of Grozny, the capital. Witnesses said that helicopter gunships and heavy artillery blasted the village of Bamut in the early hours yesterday after a week of intensive attacks by separatists against Russian troops.

The retaliation had been predicted, but nevertheless threatened to make an embarrassing backdrop to next week's VE-Day celebrations, when more than 50 world leaders will assemble in Moscow to watch a display of military might. It also made a mockery of President Yeltsin's 14-day ceasefire, which was supposed to last another week.

The move was unlikely to quieten Chechen fighters, who have been launching several attacks a day against the Russian forces.

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Briton murdered in onslaught by Algerian militants

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISLAMIC militants killed five more foreigners in southern Algeria yesterday, including one Briton, bringing to more than 80 the number of foreigners killed since they were first singled out by the Armed Islamic Group in 1993.

Sources close to the Algerian security forces said that about 20 Islamic gunmen attacked Alan Wilson, of Edinburgh, two Frenchmen, one Canadian, one Tunisian and an Algerian soldier as they slept in barracks at an irrigation equipment factory. They were working for an irrigation pipeline company on a special programme in the Ghardaia region and were not regular employees. Mr Wilson had been working as a specialist on internal pipe coatings for the Algerian gas and oil industry for five weeks. Four Algerians in the guard unit were wounded.

According to the official APS news agency, it was later reported that three Algerian military officers were killed in the attack. Seven other workers, including another Briton, were evacuated.

The Foreign Office said yesterday: "We unreservedly condemn this outrageous attack on expatriate workers. It seems that those expatriates were being protected by Algerian military guards and we are waiting for a full report from Algerian authorities."

Britain has strongly advised its nationals against going to Algeria and has reduced its diplomatic representation to two officials. It is believed that about 280 Britons remain.

France condemned the killing as "an odious criminal act". A Foreign Ministry spokesman repeated an earlier request for all French nationals whose presence is not required to return home.

A spokeswoman for the American company Bechtel, for which Mr Wilson was working as a sub-contractor on behalf of the Berkshire-based Bredero Price, said: "This is the first such incident that they have had and they are in considerable shock."

Yesterday's murders were a blow to the Algerian Government, which recently had boasted of success in its three-year civil war after killing hundreds of militants in security operations. Only last month, the authorities announced a sweeping package of measures designed to protect workers in the oil and gas industry in the Sahara desert. The militant Islamic leadership, fighting to turn the State into a revolutionary Muslim republic like Iran, is convinced that by driving out foreign expertise it can cripple the Government by depriving the exchequer of its economic lifeblood.

Since the campaign against foreigners was launched, there has been a exodus and few of those who remain have their families with them. Most live in heavily guarded hotels or compounds. The reduced number of diplomats are closely guarded.

The murders were seen in diplomatic circles as part of a deliberate attempt by the militants to reassert their power by terrifying outsiders and the native population after the recent military campaign against them. One Algerian newspaper reported that up to 2,800 Muslim rebels had died. Many of the militants are said to be as young as 15.



Guardsman David Jones, of The Welsh Guards, chats with a polio victim yesterday outside a hospital opposite the headquarters in Lobito of British troops in Angola. A United Nations envoy said yesterday that President dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the Unita rebels, will meet today for the first time in six years, raising hopes for talks to end Africa's longest war. The President failed to appear on Thursday and yesterday for their meeting in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, casting doubt on an accord signed last November. However, an aide said he would be in Lusaka today. *(Reuter)*

Angolan foes plan talks

Muslim cleric calls for editor's death

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE editor of a newspaper in Mauritius is seeking British support after a death sentence was issued against him by an ultra-orthodox Muslim cleric.

Namassiwayam Ramalingum, 37, left Mauritius days after Imam Haroun issued a *fatwa* calling on "faithful servants of God" to kill him for "giving grave offence to Islam". Mr Ramalingum is the editor of *L'Indépendant*, which he founded 18 months ago, and has a reputation as a crusader against corruption in the Government, businesses, and the media.

He incurred the wrath of the imam in March when he reprinted an article entitled "The Life and Works of the Prophet Muhammad" from the Parisian weekly *Le Point*. Yesterday, he described the essay as "analytical and inoffensive" and pointed out that the article appeared in *Le Point* last October. He said: "That magazine is freely available in Mauritius, yet no-one said a word until we decided to reprint it."



Ramalingum: seeking support in Britain

L'Indépendant was forced to close after threats directed at its offices but Mr Ramalingum will return to Mauritius tomorrow in an attempt to relaunch the newspaper.

Moscow summit will highlight deteriorating relations with US

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON flies to Russia on Monday for two-day visit that is supposed to celebrate the Allied victory over Nazi Germany 50 years ago, but will in fact highlight a sharp deterioration in American-Russian relations.

Giddy post-Cold War talk of a Washington-Moscow partnership to solve the world's problems has long gone, replaced by President Yeltsin's warnings of a "cold peace" and a frosty new American policy towards Russia of "pragmatic engagement".

Arguments over Nato's expansion, Russia's suppression of Chechenia and Moscow's determination to sell nuclear reactors to Iran will dominate potentially the most contentious summit since the Cold War's end. Only on Nato enlargement does the White House expect progress. With presidential elections in America and Russia next year, both leaders must be seen to be fighting for their national interests and neither can risk big concessions.

Mr Clinton is being criticised at home for his decision to go to Moscow at all, especially as he extracted no concessions in return for this tacit endorsement of Mr Yeltsin save a cosmetic three-week Chechenian ceasefire. As recently as February, Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State, said the President would stay away unless Russia abandoned its scorched-earth policy in Chechenia.

In the end, Mr Clinton overruled his advisers, saying his absence from the VE-Day celebrations would gravely offend a nation that lost 27 million people in the Second World War. But the White House is so concerned about the potential for embarrassment that it has extracted assurances that the Kremlin will spring no nasty suprises during the summit and that no soldiers from the Afghan or Chechenian wars will march in the Red Square parade Mr Clinton is to review.

Mr Christopher predicts "no great series of breakthroughs", but American and Russian negotiators have drafted a joint statement announcing a new security dialogue between Russia and Nato to ease Moscow's fears about the alliance's eastward expansion. Mr Yeltsin might even reverse Russia's refusal last December to join the Partnership for Peace, the American-inspired programme offering all former Warsaw Pact nations close co-operation with Nato.

Mr Christopher said Mr Clinton would restate America's opposition to Russia's proposed sale of two nuclear reactors to Iran and give Mr Yeltsin intelligence information indicating that Iran is bent on developing nuclear weapons. He said a Russian offer merely to withhold gas centrifuges capable of producing weapons-grade uranium would be insufficient.

Last Sunday Mr Clinton sought to strengthen his case by announcing a United States trade embargo on Iran, but Washington has made such a fuss about the $1 billion (£618 million) deal that Russian nationalists would accuse Mr Yeltsin of capitulation if he cancelled it now.

Mr Clinton will also denounce the Chechenian conflict. Mr Christopher said that Russia's integration into the Group of Seven industrialised nations and other Western institutions was at stake in the talks.

Marcoses make poll a family affair

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BINANGONAN, THE PHILIPPINES

LONG hair hanging forwards over a pudgy, yet somehow familiar, face creased in a smile, he leant over the side of the open, slow-moving vehicle, exchanging brief handshakes with grinning people.

Perhaps most Filipinos thought they had said good-bye forever to the Marcos clan after Ferdinand Marcos, the late President, was toppled in 1986. But as voters prepare for Monday's elections for the Senate and House of Representatives, Ferdinand Marcos II, the 37-year-old son of the dictator, is on the campaign trail.

Better known by the nickname Bong Bong and for his playboy past, Mr Marcos has apparently turned serious. "We have got to take pride in ourselves as Filipinos," he told an enthusiastic crowd. "We must not forget what happened to Flor or the fact that the present administration did not lift a finger to help her."

The crowd roars its agreement. Flor Contemplacion was the Filipina maid hanged in Singapore in March for a double murder she did not deny. Most Filipinos believe she was innocent. For the opposition, seeking an issue with which to tackle President Ramos, the case was a windfall.

"Marcos Junior has surprised us," said one Western diplomat. "He had a reputation as a spoilt brat and his first congressional term was a disaster, but somehow he has succeeded in remaking himself."

Imelda Marcos, his mother, is also running, although for the House of Representatives from her home province of Leyte. Though she is disqualified from office for failing to satisfy a residency requirement — which may take up to three years to resolve — she will probably win.

Whatever the election result, it seems that Filipinos have not put the Marcos clan behind them just yet.

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Our debt to tyranny's opponents

Jonathan Sacks on the lessons of Britain's heroism

The celebration of VE-Day this year will be more than an act of collective memory. It should remind us of the moral necessity of memory itself. Without it there is too much danger that wars are fought in vain.

For those who lived through the war, this weekend's events need no justification. They will relive the scenes of thanksgiving 50 years ago, and the sense of relief that a conflict so long and costly was nearing its end. They will mourn those who did not return, and look back with pride and grief, recalling events which left an indelible imprint on their lives.

It is for those born after the war that the case for memory needs to be made. For them, the day evokes no personal experience, and its meaning is only vaguely understood. A survey of a group of Britain's schoolchildren, published this week, showed that four in ten did not know what VE-Day stood for. Six in ten did not know what the Holocaust was.

There are those who argue that this is as it should be. We should, they say, bury the past and let it fade with dignity into oblivion. Dwelling on Britain's heroism a half-century ago can only distract us from the quite different problems of today. This, I believe, fails to understand the significance of national remembering.

The most important gift one generation can give to the next is the knowledge of the journey those before us took, and the sacrifices they had to make, to bring us to where we are. Without that knowledge, we travel blindly. If we forget what our parents fought for, we may have to fight for it again. Hindsight is the necessary tutor of foresight.

The Second World War was the bloodiest conflict in history. By its end, 55 million people had died. Twenty million lost their homes and became refugees. And this a mere 26 years after the Treaty of Versailles had sought to create a permanent peace.

There are battles which in retrospect seem tragically unnecessary. They are conflicts of might against might, shifting positions in the balance of power. Driven by aggression, fuelled by hostility, they achieve little but a legacy of death, resentment and a desire for revenge.

The Second World War was not of this kind. In the years that have passed it has grown ever clearer that this was a necessary moral confrontation. It was only as the war neared its end that Allied troops discovered the true nature of the regime against which they were fighting.

In April 1945 British troops entered the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. There they saw a sight which ever since has transformed our understanding of the boundaries of evil. Before them lay a mountain of unburied corpses. 13,000 men and women beaten, starved or shot to death. The 40,000 prisoners who remained were emaciated almost beyond recognition. Liberated, they continued to die. It was a vision from hell. A British soldier wrote to his wife that what he had seen was, "if it is ever necessary, an undoubted answer to those who want to know what we have been fighting for".

Reports that had been circulating for years, and had been discounted, were true. By the time the war ended, two-thirds of European Jewery had been murdered, not as combatants nor as the accidental casualties of war but as the victims of a sustained, ruthless, systematic plan of genocide.

A guard at Auschwitz, testifying at the Nuremberg trials, explained that at the height of the "Final Solution", when the camp was turning ten thousand Jews a day into ashes, children were thrown into the furnaces alive.

There is a revisionist interpretation of history which suggests that if only Churchill had made peace with Hitler, Britain might have saved its empire. It might — but it would have lost its soul. Churchill's greatness lay not least in the fact that from the outset he realised that this was a battle for humanity itself. In 1938, when the policy of appeasement was at its height, he made a speech outlining the brutality of Nazism, and declared: "That power cannot ever be the trusted friend of British democracy."

> Europe still witnesses neo-Nazi movements and ethnic war

He was right, and each of us today has reason to be thankful for the courage of those who responded to his call and for more than a year stood alone against tyranny. There can be no doubt what would have happened without this country's heroism. I can still recall the tremor I felt reading for the first time the minutes of the Wannsee Conference of 1942 in which Heydrich outlined his plans for the Final Solution, including the 330,000 Jews of Britain.

It is not Jews alone who must remember the Holocaust, for Jews are not the only victims of racism and the war did not end the politics of hate. Today Europe still witnesses racist, neo-Nazi and xenophobic movements and fully fledged ethnic war.

Peace and coexistence are vulnerable achievements. Their best protection is to ensure that our children never forget the cost of tyranny and the battles that had to be fought for the sake of freedom. We must remember and pass our memories on to future generations. To forget is to take the unforgivable risk that the victims died in vain.

In his poem *If this is a Man*, written shortly after his liberation from Auschwitz, Primo Levi wrote: "Meditate that this came about:/ I commend these words to you./ Carve them in your hearts/ At home, in the street,/ Going to bed, rising:/ Repeat them to your children . . ."

Telling the story from generation to generation, observing its griefs and moments of thanksgiving, pausing to pray and rededicate ourselves: these are part of having a national identity and a sense of collective moral purpose. VE-Day is as much about the future as about the past.

The author is the Chief Rabbi.

Too many Germans prefer to cast themselves as the forgotten victims of Hitler, says **Roger Boyes**

What did you do in the war, Hans?

In Germany there seems to be some doubt, in this most sensitive of seasons, as to who actually lost the Second World War. It certainly was not the Germans: an opinion poll this week shows that 44 per cent of Germans regard their country as a victim of National Socialism and an even larger minority believes that the chapter should now be closed on the Nazi past.

The German on the *Strassenbahn* or in the bar has long subscribed to this view, which can best be summarised as: "We suffered too, so stop blaming us and let us look to the future." Now the political class, though well schooled in the Allied version of history, is beginning to take a similar line.

Respectful nods have been made in the direction of concentration camp victims, but the chief thrust of the year's awkward anniversaries has been to establish the right of Germans to mourn their own dead and create a new sense of patriotism. The February anniversary of the Dresden bombing became an occasion not only to remember the civilians killed in the fire storm but also all German victims of the war.

The German President, Professor Roman Herzog, injected into his Dresden speech several not altogether relevant references to the fate of the 11 million Germans thrown out of their homes in Eastern Europe. Newspapers are stressing how the Germans were expelled at bayonet point from their homes in what is now Czech or Polish land. Graphic eyewitness accounts describe how German women were nailed to carts and raped by Russians, how German mothers and babies were herded into open cattle trucks. These memories continue to sour relations between Germany and its eastern neighbours.

The Germans are thus mapping out a symmetry of suffering. "We did this, but you did that." Plainly, there can be no serious comparison between Nazi atrocities and the fate of German civilians or soldiers. Even to attempt such a book-keeping operation confuses, in a perverse way, the causes and effects of the war. Given a general tendency to suppress unpleasant facts about the Third Reich, this is disturbing.

Most Germans, according to the poll by the Forsa Institute, admit that Germany caused the war (although 23 per cent blame it on "the confused international situation"; 4 per cent on other countries; and 7 per cent on "all countries equally"). But Allied bombing of civilian targets is being styled as a heartless and unacceptable departure from the rules. Yes, there was the London Blitz and Coventry, but Hermann Goering and others had to sit in the dock for these crimes while Britons have faced no tribunal and, in the view of German conservatives, have not even begun a process of self-examination.

There is a debate in Germany, conducted with stone-grinding thoroughness, about whether to celebrate May 8 as a day of liberation or as a day of mourning for the military defeat, the mass expulsion of Germans and the subsequent division of the country.

The lines in this political battle are not drawn clearly. Two-hundred conservative politicians and intellectuals have nailed their colours to the mast of "national defeat". Signatories of two open letters calling for mourning rather than celebration include a member of Chancellor Kohl's Cabinet, an influential Christian Democrat backbencher and a leading Free Democrat. The Government, meanwhile, clings to the thesis that Germany was liberated on May 8 — although Chancellor Kohl somehow ducks under the fence and sometimes says a word or two in favour of the national mourners.

To outsiders, the debate seems to be a borrowing from Tom Stoppard; absurd conclusions are being arrived at with perfect logic. The truth is that many Germans did feel relief on May 8, 1945, and a kind of freedom from the regime that was so plainly rotten. After the death of Hitler, there was simply no point in fighting on. But there would have been no question of "liberation" had Allied victory come earlier; the overwhelming majority of Germans were supportive of the war machine, trusted the Führer and believed in Greater Germany.

If May 1945 was a liberation for the Germans, it was an extremely nervous one — liberated, as the Polish aphorist Stanislaw Lec put it, like a tongue in a mouth without teeth. Perhaps only a minority of Germans knew about the concentration camps in 1945, but it was a substantial one (the number for Buchenwald camp was in the Weimar telephone book). For Germans, May 8 was the day of anxious waiting: how would the Allies exact their revenge?

Chancellor Kohl claims to have been blessed by "a late birth" — 15 years old at the end of the war, he was spared the choice between loyalty to Hitler and the martyrdom of resistance. This, he believes, equips him to lead Germany out of its inhibited status as a war loser to that of a victor of the Cold War.

One can hear these words, and approve: 50 years of solid democratic achievement counts for a great deal but the reordering of history is unsettling. To make victims out of the Germans downgrades the real victims. United Germany needs a new historical consensus, to reclaim its martyrs, to find war heroes and patriotic models for a new generation which already believes that collective guilt is old-fashioned and inappropriate. Germany has a right to define its history anew. But it must not be allowed to turn history upside down.

From an article in the Royal Institute of International Affairs's The World Today.

A Major victory for Labour

ADRIAN BROOKS



Faces of defeat: Conservative councillor Philip Bates, left, who lost his seat of Davyhulme West to Labour, pictured with his wife, their mood reflecting the events of the evening

By nannying local councils and preventing them from overspending or overtaxing, the Tories have lost their best tactic for embarrassing Blair before the general election

Simon Jenkins

It has been disaster in Dacorum, panic in Portsmouth and a rout along the Ribble. Horsham has haemorrhaged and Melton has massacred. There is apocalypse in Arun and hell in Hove, of all places. Daventry is despair, Fenland a fiasco and Mid Sussex a melt down. The whole business is absurd.

Local election results are barmy. They are in no sense a comment on local government. Budget capping has steadily stripped meaning from the local franchise. As the BBC said yesterday, these elections are "fought on national issues like education and crime". Education and crime are, or were, local issues. Nor are the elections any use as an opinion poll, except to hyperventilating commentators. With just 38 per cent turning out to vote, they are hopeless telltales of what 80 per cent might say in a general election. They are plays-within-plays, their actors parish Pagliaccis full of synthetic comedy and tragedy. Labour was wiped off the local map in reaction to Wilson's governments in the 1970s. The Tories even took Camden and Lambeth. For over a decade, the same fate has been visited on the Tories.

Yet how the chickens come home to roost. The conventional wisdom is that voters have "passed judgment on John Major's government". In a chaotic sense this is true. But it was not just the voters who witheld support: in Sussex, Kent, Cheshire, Berkshire and Essex it was canvassers, fund-raisers, even councillors who declined to run under the Conservative banner. These were not protesting about Black Wednesday or the Cabinet's European policy. They have borne up under worse disasters before. Their demoralisation was specific. It was due to the contempt shown for their work by Tory ministers. Capping has taken away their accountability, making councils *de facto* agents of Whitehall. An opposition Tory councillor cannot blame his Labour group for high local taxes or cuts in roads, teaching or policing. Expenditure on these functions is determined centrally. Indeed it is hard to discern what role the Cabinet really sees for the local councils elected last Thursday.

What these elections reveal is the extent of the constitutional pollution by the Thatcher and Major local government reforms. A 38 per cent turnout is a democratic outrage, half the European average in subnational elections. A normal government would worry about this, regarding itself as custodian of the health of the unwritten constitution. The present government gloats in it, using the figure to justify further centralisation of power.

In early 1991, when the Cabinet was debating the new council tax, it discussed abolishing "local" government altogether. From the lofty standpoint of the Cabinet table, the United Kingdom seemed a tiny place whose administration had room only for ministers and their appointees. Subordinate democracy was an irrelevance and an inconvenience. Councils could as well be outposts of Whitehall. In the event, the Cabinet capped the council tax and went on to cap each local budget, calculating how much each council should spend on each spending function. This degree of intervention in local democracy is unknown in any other country. Yet Mr Major did not have the courage of his colleagues' centralist convictions. He left in place elected cheerleaders for the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, freed of fiscal responsibility and with little to do but blame central government for service deficiencies. They have made full use of the licence. This was madness. John Major's silliest nationalisation has been the nationalisation of blame.

The Liberal Democrats, who should have been slaughtered by Labour on Thursday, ran a single-issue campaign based on the plight of school governors, supposedly made "independent" by Kenneth Baker's 1988 Act. They are nothing of the sort. Gillian Shephard's failure to win money from the Treasury for the teachers' 2.7 per cent pay award was devastating to Tory governors. The award had been approved by Mr Clarke himself under statute, yet he allowed only 0.8 per cent on local education budgets to pay for it. Not only was such centralisation unparalleled in any other democracy, Mr Clarke also tried to pretend that any subsequent sacking of teachers was nothing to do with him. On Thursday, Tory activists replied to this avoidance of accountability in the only way left open to them.

In a better world, John Major would now gather his generals round him and prepare for war. He would tell them to devastate the "new Labour government of Britain", the quarter of the public sector administered by Labour local authorities. Faced with a similar mid-term reverse in American, Bill Clinton is "running against" the Republicans in Congress and in state and local government. With devolved powers, the latter can rightly be held answerable for the wrongs of American government.

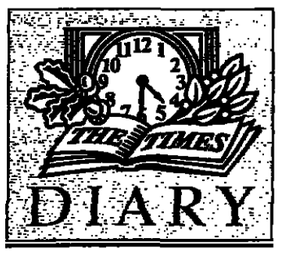
To do likewise, Mr Major would have immediately to uncap council taxes. He could thus give the public a devastating two-year blast of Labour taxation policy in practice. He should restore the business rate to local government, and let those company directors now oiling up to Tony Blair see the real spots on his back. He should allow councils to run their own schools and colleges, set their own budgets and fight their own teachers. He should give them back the police, and savage Labour if crime rises. He should release local authority capital accounts, frozen in Whitehall, and then justly attack the condition of housing estates. He should allow councils to be hospital purchasing authorities, and then have to take the rap for waiting lists. There would be no more of Mr Major rushing to the dispatch box to explain why Mr X has just been flown from London to Leeds for an operation.

Taxes are the key to democracy. In 1988 discretionary local taxes covered 60 per cent of local spending. They now cover under 20 per cent, the rest coming from the centre. Pushing this burden back to local government would save the (Tory) government money and cost (Labour) councils dear. Labour could not complain: they want capping ended. They want more spent on public services. Let them face the electoral heat for both. If the balance of the mid-1980s were restored, Mr Clarke could cut income tax by 4p or do the same to VAT. The rate-payers would howl. But the howl would be directed at Labour.

Mr Major is too timid for this strategy. It has been hotly debated in Downing Street, where Mr Major himself is in favour. But the Treasury has said "no". For reasons that need no guessing, Mr Major does not feel strong enough to stand up to Mr Clarke just now. The Treasury's concern for the aggregates of public spending is thus in sublime union with the Chancellor's loathing for local government and his own mischievous ambition. As his treatment of Gillian Shephard and teachers' pay showed, Mr Clarke revels in humiliating Tory and Labour councillors alike. His spokesmen like to maintain that they are "holding back for an election winning tax cut". That sounds like the same political savvy that brought us the "incomparable boon" of ERM membership.

The fact is that the Treasury has shot Mr Major's one good fox. By rendering local councils unaccountable, yet preventing them from overspending or overtaxing, Mr Clarke has wrecked the best tactic for embarrassing Labour in the next two years. Forget the polls and the meltdowns. Forget even the pollution of the constitution. The neutering of local government under John Major has been just plain stupid.

Oh, brother



WATCH Tony Blair's famous grin when he welcomes all his new councillors. For the Labour leader, who turns 42 today, will come face to face with one of those trade union dinosaurs he is trying so hard to marginalise. Evans, Arthur Mostyn, Labour councillor on King's Lynn and West Norfolk council, is better known as Moss Evans, legendary general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union in the 1970s.

At 69, Evans looks certain to become council leader after one of the most extraordinary routs of the elections. His political resurrection is all the more remarkable as Evans is largely blamed for provoking the "Winter of Discontent" which brought down the Callaghan Government in 1979. He later underwent extensive stomach surgery for cancer.

To convalesce, Evans and his wife Laura retired to their caravan at Heacham, near King's Lynn. Ten years later, he became the first Labour councillor and, when joined by others, was elected leader of the Labour group.

"It's overwhelming. I was up until a quarter to three last night," chuckled Evans yesterday. "And I had a meeting at 9.30 this morning. Now I've been elected I've got to bring home the bacon."

Meanwhile he spares little sympathy for the defeated Tories. "I'm told that when Henry Bellingham, the local Tory MP, was canvassing he said to people 'you are not going to vote for that man who brought the country to a standstill in 1979!' Now I've topped the poll."

● *Poor Baroness Blatch, the highly-regarded Home Office minister, did not have a happy evening as she watched the local election results come through until one o'clock with John Major in his Downing Street flat. Her son, James, failed for the second year to be elected a councillor in Huntingdon, despite assiduous canvassing by the PM's wife, Norma.*

Goon diggin'

SPIKE MILLIGAN has developed a passion for ancient ruins. In lively form at the launch of *Spike Milligan, A Celebration* in Piccadilly on Thursday night, the 77-year-old explained his new interest in life.

"My embouchure has gone, so I can't play the trumpet any more, which is sad, but I have always wanted to be an archaeologist and now I am doing a bit of amateur excavating," he explained. "I have been on some digs down in Sussex and we have found what we think is a Roman temple and are waiting to see if we can go ahead and excavate further. I've found quite a few Roman coins so hopefully they'll earn me more than my books."

Matinée idle

AFTER negotiations with Equity and the backstage unions, Sunday performances have returned to London's West End theatres. A couple of musicals tried it last month and tomorrow *A Passionate Woman*, starring Stephanie Cole, will play at the Comedy. More than 40 members of the audience will be wearing dog-collars.

There is a matinée performance only, with the curtain scheduled to come down at ten to six, leaving local clergymen just enough time to scurry back to their flocks for Evensong. "We invited 200 vicars who live within four miles of the theatre," says producer David Pugh. "The response has been wonderful. We've got 39 vicars, one canon and a deaconess coming along. We have asked them to wear their clerical collars so we can recognise them. It's nothing to do with Peter Tatchell but we wanted to give them a free outing."

● *Viewers to BBC TV's* Six O'Clock News *were deprived of the sight of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, last night because of the lack of cosmetics. On arrival at the Beeb's Millbank studios, Howard, sporting a five o'clock shadow, learnt there was no professional make-up girl to prepare him. He declined to be interviewed.*



It's like spot-the-ball, but a lot harder"

Party time

IN A typically generous touch yesterday, Lords leader and VE-Day supremo Lord Cranborne threw a party for John Major and selected colleagues to cheer them up on the latest Black Friday. The "at home" at the QE2 Conference Centre off Parliament Square caused disrespectful giggles about "alternative" parties when guests were required by security to bear labels stating "Lord Cranborne's Party". Nevertheless it was a bash to which the Prime Minister had been looking forward all week, I am told.



O'Brien: mystery admirer

When chatting to MPs in the Commons tea-room on Tuesday, Major related how he had tried for Dorset West, the seat which Cranborne once represented. "When he was waiting in the local Tory offices, Cranborne walked in and the entire party executive instantly stood to attention," confides my informant. "John said he knew straight away his chances were nil."

Plot thickens

WHAT with the clandestine midnight feasts and illicit trips to the pub, health farms can be busy places after dark. And so an exclusive establishment in Hampshire discovered when it entertained the flame-haired author Edna O'Brien.

O'Brien, like fellow guests Joan Collins and Denis Norden, kept herself very much to herself. But it seems she had a mysterious admirer. "I was in my room and I heard something being stuffed under the door," explains another guest. "It was a letter garlanded with flowers addressed to what looked like 'Ernie'. I couldn't understand it and opened it and discovered a love letter, from someone saying how much they had admired this person from afar for years. I couldn't make out a lot of it because the writing wasn't very good but then it dawned that it was meant for Edna. So I quickly put it back in the envelope and popped it downstairs to reception."

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

VICTORY TO DEFEAT

A weekend pause for commemoration — but then what?

As Conservative MPs sat in Westminster Hall yesterday to hear the Queen's VE-Day address, their thoughts could not help but stray from victory to defeat. After a night on which they had surrendered control of all but 13 of Britain's 407 local councils to Labour and the Liberal Democrats, there was plenty to occupy their minds. Unlike the bunting and the military bands, the Tory problems will still be with them when the weekend is over.

The scale of their defeat was extraordinary in itself. Analysts have struggled to remember a comparable loss of seats or councils. On Thursday morning the Conservatives controlled 73 councils, including four London boroughs and one shire county. By Friday morning that figure had dropped to just 13. Only a few weeks ago Conservative Central Office was claiming that the loss of 1,000 seats would be a disaster. The figure was hastily revised upwards, but still failed to match the loss of about 2,000 seats. With just the occasional blue dot left on the recoloured political map, the Tories can claim to be no more than a fringe party of local government.

This matters not just because of the effect on town halls. It matters because there are now another 2,000 loyal Tories who have given years, sometimes decades of service to local government, and who now find themselves not even in opposition, but out of local politics altogether because of the mess that their masters in Westminster have created. Local councillors are the backbones of Conservative associations. Those who lost on Thursday cannot expect to reclaim their seats for another four years. It will not be surprising if many — especially the older ones — decide to bow out of politics for good.

The Conservative election machine used to purr like a Rolls-Royce. It is now stuttering badly. A combination of poor leadership from the top, financial difficulties, the sacking of agents and desperately low morale among the ageing foot soldiers means that Labour can now boast a more efficient campaigning organisation. This bodes ill for the next general election.

So does fuller analysis of Thursday night's results. The Tories had hoped that Labour's resurgence under Tony Blair would split the Opposition vote in the South and allow Conservatives to hold their seats. Instead, voters aimed their anti-Government venom precisely at the party that was most likely to defeat the sitting Conservative. This sort of tactical voting is particularly frightening to Tories. Until now, it has been rare in England and Wales: but in Scotland in 1987, it reduced the Conservatives to a mere ten seats out of 72.

The other frightening outcome was the resurgence of Labour in areas of the South. Castle Point in Essex, for instance, had 35 Conservative and four Labour councillors on Thursday morning. By yesterday, Labour had 34 and the Tories only five. Bracknell Forest, which had not a single Labour councillor until eight years ago, is now controlled by Mr Blair's party. And even Hove, that sometime bastion of Conservative gentility, is now a Labour council.

The plotting among Tory MPs has barely begun. It will not become formal until they reassemble at Westminster next Tuesday. Meanwhile, this weekend, they will have to endure the wrath of their local parties. According to *The Times's* own survey, a majority of Tory councillors say that they do not want John Major to go. Yet the most important reason they cited for their defeat was general government incompetence. When the weekend celebrations are over, the contradiction between those two positions may look rather more stark.

KENNETH THE BRAVE

The Chancellor was right not to raise interest rates

Kenneth Clarke has done nothing and done it well. His decision to keep interest rates steady yesterday defied a virtually unanimous clamour from the City for higher rates. It was probably taken against the advice of the Bank of England. It marked the Chancellor as a man of courage, in the best sense of that word.

Mr Clarke's courage has sometimes seemed akin to the lemming's. But yesterday the value of his well-known robustness was revealed. For any Chancellor, it takes a certain bravado to defy the financial markets. The "soft option" can often be to inflict unnecessary damage on the economy in the name of "financial prudence", a concept which the City claims the right to define as it pleases. This week's clamour for higher interest rates was a clear case.

There were no strong economic arguments for the Chancellor to rush into raising interest rates. Most of the statistics released in the three months since the last increase suggested that the economy was slowing. Inflation showed no sign of acceleration and pay settlements, which are ultimately the most important determinant of future price trends, had actually started falling. The manufacturing sector, which had previously been fuelling the recovery and beginning to bid up wages, had stopped growing since October. Car sales were flat and the housing market remained in depression. Although there were some tentative signs of strength in the service sector, revealed in the GDP figures published in April, these were highly suspect — "puzzling" and inconsistent with other evidence, as Mr Clarke noted in his press conference yesterday.

Presented with this conflict of evidence, the Chancellor should have had no trouble in deciding the prudent course. He could afford to postpone any decision for another month, while more accurate and up to date statistics were collected. If it turned out that the service sector was really overheating or that the pause in manufacturing activity was nothing more than a temporary aberration, Mr Clarke would have plenty of time to raise interest rates in June or July. If on the other hand, the economy was slowing, judicious inaction now would avoid the risk of needlessly making things worse.

Why, then, was the City shocked by the Chancellor's decision and why did the Bank of England apparently favour a rate increase at once? There seems to be only one reason. Back in March, the Bank expressed some anxiety about the weakness of sterling. Since then the pound has fallen a further 2 per cent. The Bank noted that the fall of the pound was largely related to events in America and Germany and therefore beyond Britain's control: Mr Clarke said quite explicitly in Washington that he would not raise interest rates to "defend" the pound. But the City ignored him and convinced itself that the Bank would demand an immediate increase in rates. The Bank, having rather foolishly allowed the expectations of higher rates to take hold, probably felt it could not afford to disappoint the City, fearing damage to its prized "credibility" as a guardian against inflation.

The Chancellor was quite right to call a halt to this game of double-bluff. There would be only one sound reason for raising interest rates in Britain today: if credible evidence emerged of economic overheating or intensifying wage pressure. The wellbeing of British business is too important to put at risk in psychological games with financial markets. Mr Clarke should be congratulated for calling the City's bluff.

BISHOPS AND BAD EARS

VE-Day is a celebration of the everyday as well as the epic

HITLER DEAD. VICTORY IN EUROPE TO BE DECLARED TO-DAY. THE KING AND MR. CHURCHILL TO BROADCAST. Of the millions of words written and broadcast about VE-Day in the past week, more than were published during the whole of the last war, the most vivid have been the facsimiles of contemporary publications.

Those pages from *The Times* of the first week of May 1945 (the last one will appear with the proclamation of VE-Day on Monday) are a time-machine to present the world earthquake as it seemed at the time. The headlines in *Times* Roman and Bold, stacked in as many decks as a First World War battleship, tell in the cold journalism of a vanished age the dramatic story of the days of victory.

Journalism is only the first draft of history. And with memoirs, the release of secret documents, hindsight and revisionism we know the story more accurately and fully than the sub-editors of 50 years ago. Hitler had not escaped. The Russian delegations were arriving in San Franscisco with a more sinister agenda than securing peace. But the down-page marginalia and forgotten footnotes recreate other sights and sounds from those days of glory and relief. The Germans may have announced unconditional surrender. But on our main news page we also reported that the Bishop of Malmesbury had to undergo an operation and would be unable to resume his duties until the end of May. *The Times* headlined a "confused situation" in the Balkans, showing that some places never change. But at the same time London's tram and trolleybus men had called a wildcat strike, spoiling the folk myth of all pulling together. The terrible list of Fallen Officers may be found on page 7. But on our main page a forgotten premier of Queensland is reported to be in a London nursing home suffering from ear trouble.

The thousand-year Reich collapses. Dynasties pass. But it has been arranged that newspaper workers shall take their holiday on the day after VE-Day and that *The Times* will therefore not be published on Thursday. Icarus falls out of the sky in Breughel's painting, and the world turns its back on the prodigious disaster and carries on with its ploughing, its sheep, its sailing and its other mundane activities. Life must go on.

Humankind cannot bear very much high history. The King is paying his victory tribute to his peoples and the conquering captains are in San Francisco to make the peace. But for the first time since the war began, security has been so relaxed that Britain can start having weather forecasts to grumble about again and the BBC can stop its vulgar wartime practice of naming its announcers in order to baffle spies and impostors. History is not just about the führers and the field marshals, though they are the ones who star in the history books. VE-Day was a triumph for the ordinary men and women who had the lion's heart, as well as of the great ones who gave the lion's roar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Complexities of mortgage policies

From Mr Martin Lingeman

Sir, Both your correspondent and Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading (reports, April 29), seem to have adopted the widely held belief that an "endowment mortgage" is a single entity — it is not.

The borrower takes out a loan (the mortgage) from a lender, usually a building society, and in order to repay that loan in most cases starts some form of long-term savings plan which may be an endowment policy, a unit or investment trust savings plan or PEP or even a personal pension plan.

The granting of a mortgage loan may not be governed by the Financial Services Act, but with respect to Sir Bryan the advice on an endowment policy or other savings plan most certainly is.

A with-profits low-cost endowment policy is probably the most affordable lower-risk form of disciplined savings with which to repay a mortgage. Since few borrowers can be bothered to shop around for a suitable policy or to take independent advice and, yes, building societies can earn handsome commissions from selling such policies, the mortgage papers and the endowment application form are often completed on the same occasion.

Robert Miller's article comments that one of the key criticisms of endowment mortgages is that stock market returns are not guaranteed — well of course they aren't. He might as well have said that one of the key criticisms of a bicycle is that it only has two wheels. At least a with-profits endowment policy helps to even out stock market fluctuations, something that the PEP or unit/investment trust savings plan by definition does not.

The coverage goes on to advocate by implication the more straightforward interest-only or repayment mortgage, but fails to point out that a pure interest-only mortgage is generally only available for 60 per cent of the purchase price, or that a repayment mortgage may (subject to prevailing interest rates) be more expensive to run, will normally need to be backed up by some form of life assurance policy to protect the borrower's family, and is usually not portable when moving house.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN LINGEMAN,
Hurstbourne Park,
Whitchurch, Hampshire.
May 1.

From Dr Peter J. Smith

Sir, An endowment mortgage is one that guarantees the amount required to pay off the mortgage at the end of the term. The only uncertainty is how much the borrower will receive back in addition, in accrued bonuses. I am buying my house on an endowment policy, as did my parents.

A rather different animal is the *low-cost* endowment mortgage. Here, the sum assured is much lower than that required to settle the loan (except on earlier death) and the balance depends on the accrued bonuses — which, indeed, may turn out to be insufficient.

Low-cost endowment mortgages became popular during the 1980s because, for obvious reasons, they are much cheaper than the genuine article. It was obvious at the time, however, that people who took them up were, in effect, gambling with their house.

Before people worry, they should check to see whether they have a proper endowment mortgage or its nastier relation.

Yours sincerely,
PETER J. SMITH,
32 St James Close,
Hanslope, Buckinghamshire.
May 1.

Weekend Money letters, page 35

Local election results

From Mr Simon Cockburn

Sir, Having listened to the coverage of the local election results on Radio 4's *Today* programme this morning, I can only say that I find the arrogance of the Tory interviewees quite breathtaking.

Jeremy Hanley and Michael Howard talked in terms of the need to "get through to the voters" and "get the message across". Do they think we are backward children who have failed to appreciate all they have done for us?

The voters have sent a clear message to the Tory party. But will they listen? It would seem not. We are told they will "shrug it off" and "will press on with their policies".

If they do not listen to us, particularly on education, then we will have to teach them another lesson at the polling stations.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON COCKBURN,
23 McCartney Walk,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
May 5.

From Mr Stephen Bayley

Sir, I wonder how soon members of the Conservative Party will start advocating proportional representation?

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN BAYLEY,
6 North Hill Close,
Burton Bradstock,
Bridport, Dorset.
May 5.

Arts and National Lottery funding

From Professor Sir Alan Peacock, FBA

Sir, Magnus Linklater ("How much do we value the arts?", Scottish edition, May 2) rightly draws attention to the paradox of confining National Lottery funding of the arts largely to capital expenditure when theatre and opera companies cannot earn enough to cover their current costs. Public appreciation of the creative and performing arts simply does not accord with the cognoscenti's view of our artistic achievement.

One possible way out of this dilemma is to extend the definition of "capital investment" to "human capital". I was therefore glad to see that Richard Morrison (Arts, April 29) supports my idea that lottery funding should be targeted towards the young, through support of arts education and voucher schemes which would allow them to choose which arts to support. The long-term aim would be to resolve the Linklater dilemma by creating such enthusiasm for our artistic achievements that government subsidies would become largely unnecessary.

Nothing in the above suggestions need preclude "polling the punters" in order to sensitise those in charge of lottery funding to public opinion. If this were done, I would be surprised if there were not widespread support for investing in youth.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN PEACOCK,
146/4 Whitehouse Loan,
Edinburgh 9.
May 2.

From the Secretary General of the Arts Council

Sir, Richard Morrison's article does not do justice to the Arts Council of England's lottery funding policy. Rather than being tied to the arts establishment, as he suggests, we are committed to ensuring that the widest possible range of organisations benefit.

So far, we have made awards to two brass bands, a regional dance centre and a children's theatre, among others. This pattern of funding, which rewards the excellence of regional and local arts organisations as well as the "cultural giants", will continue.

Sixty-eight per cent of the applications currently being assessed is for sums less than £100,000, of which roughly half are for less than £30,000. The quality of these applications suggests that a high proportion of them will receive funding.

While policy directions from government dictate that lottery money must be spent mainly on new buildings and equipment, Richard Morrison implies that it would be better spent on the running or production costs of arts organisations.

This ignores one of the most important principles behind the lottery. It was set up to provide new money for benefiting "good causes". Spending lottery money on running costs would almost inevitably cause government to reduce its revenue subsidy for the arts.

The article also fails to recognise that there is an urgent need for capital investment in the arts. There are far too many theatres and galleries with leaking roofs and other defects and far too few accessible to people with disabilities. Arts lottery funding will increase audiences by making venues more comfortable, attractive and accessible. All the organisations that we fund with lottery money will also increase audiences through education programmes.

Yours sincerely,
MARY ALLEN,
Secretary General,
The Arts Council of England,
14 Great Peter Street, SW1.
May 3.

Church finances

From the Reverend R. S. J. Charles

Sir, The Church Commissioners (report, May 3; letters, April 24, May 2) in no way subsidise parishes. The so-called "Commissioners' Money" that is said to subsidise stipends is mainly parish money that has been left to the parishes over the centuries to finance the parochial clergy. The fact that it has now been centralised does not mean it no longer belongs to the parishes.

The Church of England operates a parochial system that enables any resident to call upon the services of its ministers. This is its privilege and duty as the "establishment".

Clergy do not serve just a membership, as is the case with ministers of all the other denominations. For this reason the maintaining of the parochial clergy rightly falls on the Church's historic resources as well as on present congregations.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT CHARLES,
The Vicarage, Rufford Road,
Crossens, Southport, Merseyside.

From Professor Emeritus D. R. Denman

Sir, In 1960, ten years before synodical rule was imposed in 1970, when the affairs of the Church of England were under the governance of Church Assembly, that worthy house set up a commission, of which I was a member, to examine and report on the future management of parsonages and Church lands, notably glebe (land attached to a parish church).

The commission had an eye to the brewers who, like the Church, had property in every parish of the realm. Inspiration from this parallel and other sources resulted in a recommendation to establish diocesan land agencies to manage with a professional hand all glebe land in the respective dioceses; glebe was to remain in the independent freehold of each incumbent.

Alas, politics at that time were under the influence of the heady wine of centralisation and other socialistic dogma. Church Assembly was likewise inebriated.

Consequently, in 1967, under the lead of the First Church Estates Commissioner and the sway of socialist ethos, the sound recommendations of its commission were thrown out and the management and ownership of all glebe were centralised in the hands of the Church Commissioners.

How different would the aggregate property value of the Church of England have been today, had the assembly followed the wiser advocacy of its own commission.

Yours etc,
D. R. DENMAN,
Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Civil to a fault

From the Chairman of the Polite Society

Sir, Whilst not wishing to involve myself in the staff policies of Harrods, I am sure many readers will be as incredulous as our members to learn (report, "Harrods manager 'driven to resign because she was too soft on staff'", May 5) that any organisation might consider it a fault for staff to be "too polite".

Yours truly,
GERALD HANSON, Chairman,
Polite Society,
Potters Lodge, 74a Slough Road,
Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire.
May 5.

UK and Europe

From Mr Bernard Buckle

Sir, Parliament is sovereign [Viscount Tonypandy's letter, April 26; other letters, April 27, May 1]. Whatever Parliament has made by way of treaty it can always unmake.

Of course there would be cost in abrogating, say, the Treaty of Rome: but if we ever had to do so we could. We have not given away our independence, merely done a deal.

Yours etc,
BERNARD BUCKLE,
Flat Five,
99 High Street,
Ventnor, Isle of Wight.
April 27.

Wellington's charger

From Colonel A. L. Mallinson

Sir, The Duke of Wellington's charger, Copenhagen, was not an Arab (Diary, April 27) or the grey in the accompanying picture. His dam's sire was the Rutland Arabian, making him quarter-Arab, and he had Arab blood through his thoroughbred lines — a grandsire was the famous racehorse Eclipse — but he was otherwise a hunter type, and a chestnut.

The Duke said of him: "There may have been many faster horses, no doubt many handsomer, but for bottom and endurance I never saw his fellow."

Few British officers at that time would have taken an Arab on campaign: they were showy but not big or robust enough. British thoroughbreds and hunters, many from Ireland, were the envy of continental armies. At Waterloo the Duke escaped danger on at least two occasions by Copenhagen's big jump.

The horse carried him throughout the battle, during which Wellington received not so much as a scratch, and they rode by moonlight back to the Duke's headquarters in Waterloo village. On dismounting, Wellington gave him a pat on the quarters, whereupon Copenhagen lashed out and very nearly did him serious injury.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN MALLINSON,
The Cavalry and Guards Club,
Piccadilly, W1.
April 28.

From Mrs Stella A. Walker

Sir, Copenhagen's dam was Lady Catherine, the mare that carried General Grosvenor at the siege of Copenhagen. She embarked to England in foal to Meteor, second in the 1786 Derby, and in 1808 produced the bright chestnut that was named after the campaign.

When the horse died in 1836 he was buried, with military honours, at Stratfield Saye, Hampshire, where a headstone marks his grave.

Sir Edward Boehm's bronze statue at Hyde Park Corner remains the finest representation of the horse.

Yours faithfully,
STELLA A. WALKER,
Watermill Farm, Rushlake Green,
Heathfield, East Sussex.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

A wizard prang on wartime slang

From Dr Denis Cashman

Sir, I will surely not be the only septuagenarian to take issue with Philip Howard's entertaining column (April 29). "A flap" was certainly not limited to an air raid. It referred more generally to the alarum of any situation of unpreparedness — the unannounced arrival of top brass, for example.

"Sprog" may have been a sailor's chum, but it was primarily an RAF term for a junior, or any learner: a sprog pilot, for example, was more likely to prang his own kite. My four children, all but one now in their forties, I frequently refer to as my sprogs.

"Finger trouble" surely predated Far East PoW camps and meant an inability to get on with the job because of over-zealous attention to the rule book.

TTFN,
DENIS CASHMAN,
4 Derwent Road,
Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear.
May 1.

From Mr Peter May

Sir, I completed a tour of operations as a navigator in Wellington bombers and although we frequently called our pilot a variety of names, "bus driver" was not among them. The term was, I think, sometimes used of pilots in heavy bomber squadrons.

"The drink" meant generally the sea, not specifically the Channel. I had the misfortune to ditch in the Atlantic in 1943 (and the good fortune to be rescued after 48 hours); we did not call it either the "herring pond" or the "gravy".

To get (or pull) one's finger out was in general use before Japan entered the war. "Wizard", as a word of general approbation, I suspect owes as much to the popular boys' weekly, *The Wizard*, as to Waugh or Wodehouse.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MAY
(ex-Fl/Lt, 192 Squadron,
Bomber Command),
43 Freston, Paston,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
May 1.

From Mrs Margery Hartley

Sir, The naval expression "parting brassrags", meaning a disagreement, is a good deal older than the last war. I heard it often as a child in the Twenties, and I imagine my mother got it from a brother who was a midshipman ("snotty") on *HMS Cornwall* in the First World War battle of the Falklands.

But as polishing and painting were constant chores in the days of huge peacetime fleets the phrase almost certainly goes back to the beginning of the century, if not earlier.

Yours sincerely,
MARGERY HARTLEY,
1 Dover Close,
Alresford, Hampshire.
May 1.

Pollution alert

From Mr K. F. Czerny

Sir, Your report (May 4) highlighting a "pollution alert" comes as no surprise. In a country where road transport is seen as the be all and end all of our transport needs, and where bus deregulation has resulted in a plethora of companies bidding for our custom, it is no wonder the quality of our air is declining.

A visit to a bus terminus will show you a contributory factor with buses standing idle with engines running and in some cases no drivers in attendance. Giving powers to traffic wardens to fine bus companies for condoning this practice may go a little way to improving our air quality.

Yours sincerely,
K. CZERNY,
44 Abbotsford Gardens,
Woodford Green, Essex.
May 4.

Labour and industry

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, Dr Jack Cunningham pithily describes Labour policy aimed at creating a world-class British industry without once mentioning management [letter, May 2; see also letter, May 5].

It is possible to have good relations with the unions, a trained workforce, and first-class investment, but without world-class management there is no world-class industry.

Management must have the freedom to create world-class companies and not be restricted by government policies which normally, by the time they are applied, are out of date.

Yours truly,
IAN MORROW,
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1.
May 3.

Early learning

From Mr Jonathan Portch

Sir, I have a very ill cat. To encourage him to eat at least something, I have purchased some baby food. At "three months +" it is suitable for vegetarians: should we really empower the young at so tender an age?

Yours,
J. S. PORTCH,
27 Lateward Road,
Brentford, Middlesex.
May 4.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 5: The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today received Addresses from both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War.

Her Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses were received upon arrival at St Stephen's Entrance by the Lord Great Chamberlain (the Marquess of Cholmondeley).

The Address from the House of Lords was read and presented to The Queen by the Lord Chancellor (the Lord Mackay of Clashfern) and the Address from the House of Commons was read and presented by the Speaker (the Rt Hon Betty Boothroyd, MP), to which Addresses Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Queen's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty.

Afterwards The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, attended a Reception in Speaker's House.

The Ladies and Gentlemen of the Households in Waiting were in attendance.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand was received by Her Majesty this afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning presented the 1955 Templeton Prize at Buckingham Palace.

By Command of The Queen, the Lord Lucas of Crudwell (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, today upon the Arrival of the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa and Mrs Mbeki, The King of Lesotho, The King of Swaziland and Inkhostikati, The President of the State of Israel and Mrs Weizman and The President of the Republic of Estonia and Mrs Meri and welcomed them on behalf of Her Majesty.

By Command of The Queen, the Earl of Lindsay (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, today upon the Arrival of The President of the Republic of Finland, The President of the Republic of Cyprus and Mrs Clerides, State Counsellor of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, The President of the Republic of Albania and Mrs Berisha, the Prime Minister of New Zealand and Mrs Bolger, The President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Mrs Hassanali and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan and Begum Gilani and welcomed them on behalf of Her Majesty.

By Command of The Queen, Major General Sir Philip Ward (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for West Sussex) was present at Gatwick Airport, London, today upon the Arrival of The King of Nepal and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and welcomed them on behalf of Her Majesty.

By Command of The Queen, Mr Hugh Braden (Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex) was present at Gatwick Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of the Deputy Chief Minister of Gibraltar and Mrs Pilcher and welcomed them on behalf of Her Majesty.

By Command of The Queen, Mrs Pauline Samuelson (Deputy Lieutenant of Essex) was present at Stansted Airport, London, today upon the Arrival of The President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Senhora Cardoso and The President of the Republic of Botswana and Lady Masire and welcomed them on behalf of Her Majesty.

By Command of The Queen, Mrs Heather Rendle (Deputy Lieutenant of Essex) was present at Stansted Airport, London, this evening upon the Arrival of The President of the Kyrgyz Republic and Mrs Akayeva and welcomed them on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Major David Jamieson VC at the Memorial Service for Captain Charles Upham VC which was held in St Martin-in-the Fields, London WC2, this afternoon.

The Prince Edward was represented by Mr Bryce Harland.

May 5: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning opened the Reading Carers Centre, Cross Street, Reading, and was received by Mr William Palmer (Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire). Mrs William Nunneley was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE

May 5: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bt at the Memorial Service for Captain Charles Upham VC which was held in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields this afternoon.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

May 5: The Prince of Wales this evening visited an exhibition of paintings by K.B. Hancock at Tetbury Parish Church, Gloucestershire. Mr Matthew Butler was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

May 5: The Duchess of Gloucester this morning attended a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Denmark at St Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2. Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

May 5: The Duke of Kent, Honorary Air Vice-Marshal, this afternoon attended a reception held by the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, the Savoy Hotel, London WC2. Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance. The Duchess of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, this evening dined with Officers of the Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire, the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1. Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

Memorial service

Captain C.H. Upham, VC and Bar

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Major D.A. Jamieson, VC, at the service of thanksgiving for the life of Captain Charles Hazlitt Upham, VC and Bar, held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was represented by Major Sir Ralph Anstruther and Prince Edward by Mr Bryce Harland.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, who gave an address, and Mrs Bolger were present. The Speaker of the New Zealand House of Representatives and Mrs Tapsell attended. The Leader of the Opposition of the New Zealand House of Representatives was represented by Mr Robert Tizard. The High Commissioner for New Zealand was also present.

Canon Geoffrey Brown officiated and prayers were also offered by the Archdeacon of Middlesex. Mr George Weston read the lesson and addresses were given by Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, and Sir Roden Cutler, VC, Deputy President, VC and GC Association. Sir Donald McIntyre, accompanied by a trumpeter from the Band of the Light Division, sang *The Trumpet Shall Sound* from Handel's *Messiah*. A bugler from the



1st Battalion, Light Infantry, sounded *Last Post* and *Reveille*. The Rev Barrie Hibbert and Group Captain the Rev D.W. Hall, RNZAF, Principal Defence Chaplain, New Zealand Forces, were robed.

The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress of Westminster attended. The Secretary General of the Commonwealth was represented by Mr Stuart Mole. The large congregation also included:

Mrs Upham (widow), Miss Amanda Upham (daughter) and other members of the family.

The Duke of Wellington (SE Branch, Royal British Legion), the Duke and Duchess of Manchester, Earl Jellicoe (president, UK Crete Veterans Association), Viscount Cobham, the Dowager Viscountess De L'Isle, Lady Bramall, Lord Freyberg, Lady Freyberg, Lord and Lady Grey of Naunton, Lord Moore of Wolvercote, Lord Campbell of Allaway, QC, Lord and Lady Wright of Richmond, Air Commodore the Hon Timothy and Mrs Elsworthy, the Hon Annabel Freyberg.

Admiral Sir Charles Madden, Admiral Sir Gordon and Lady Tait, Lady Cutler, Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, Field Marshal Sir Peter and Lady Inge, General Sir Martin Farndale (Master Gunner, St James's Park) and Lady Farndale, General Sir Jeremy and Lady Blacker, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, National President, Royal British Legion, and Lady Dalton, with Mr E.R. Jobson, National Chairman; Lieutenant-General Sir Robert and Lady Ross, Major-General Sir David Thorne, Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden (Royal College of Defence Studies), Sir Thomas and Lady Macpherson.

Sir Geoffrey Cox, Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, and Lady Watkins, Sir Arthur Hockaday, Sir Donald and Lady McIntyre, Sir Alistair McKechnie, Sir Francis Renouf, Sir Trevor Skeet, MP, and Lady Skeet, Sir Alan Traill, Sir William Barlow, Lady Kennedy, Mr Marmaduke and Lady Susan Hussey, Major-General and the Hon Mrs Charles Ramsay, Mrs D.A. Jamieson, Mrs Timothy Raphael, Mrs Barrie Hibbert, Mr and Mrs Denis McLean.

Dr Katherine Acland, Mr Frederick Akel, Mr Harry Bailey, Ms Shirley Baker, Mr John Cherry and Mrs Cherry, Mr Paul Cherry, Mr Peter Cherry and Mrs Cherry, Mr R. Cornish, Mrs R. Dawson, Mr and Mrs William Hobhouse, Mr Henry Hobhouse, Miss Susan Holmes-Sledie, Mr Edward Holmes-Sledie, Mr Gordon Holmes-Sledie, Mr James Holmes-Sledie, Mrs Susan Holmes-Sledie, Professor Andre and Dr Monica Holmes-Sledie, Mr and Mrs Antoine Khayat, Mrs Sarah Kippenberger-Pattersen, Mrs Margaret Lulls.

Mr Robert Moss, Mr and Mrs Joachim Nolle, Mrs Vivian North, Mrs Anne Prior, Mr and Mrs Richard Schroder, Colonel Jim Small, Mrs A C Sperling, Mr and Mrs Guy Weston, Miss Sophie Weston, Mr Guy Weston and Mrs Weston, Mr Garth Weston, Mrs Margaret Weston, Mrs Rachel Windsor, Mr Jim Wiremu, Mrs E C T Wilson, Major-General and Mrs I C Mackay-Dick, Major-General and Mrs R A Pett, Mr and Mrs Terence O'Leary, Mr and Mrs Bernard Cazenove.

Col B S T Archer, Chairman, VC and GC Association, with Mrs D. Grabame, Secretary; Captain R W Annand, VC, and Mrs Annand, Commander J Bridge, GC, and Mrs Bridge, Mr H Errington, GC, Captain P J Gardiner, VC, and Mrs Gardiner, Mr A J Gledhill, GC, and Mrs Gledhill, Mr E Hawkins, GC, Mr J P Kenneally, VC, and Mrs Kenneally, Mr D G Kinne, GC, Wing Commander R A B Learoyd, VC, Mr J Lynch, GC, Miss J D M Pearson, GC, Colonel P A Porteous, VC, Major Purves and Mrs M Purves, GC, Flight-Lieutenant W Reid, VC, and Mrs Reid, Mr H W Stevens, GC, Mr C Walker, GC, and Mrs Walker.

Major-General M Forrester (Vice-president, UK Crete Veterans Association), Brigadier M J Doyle (British Commonwealth ex-Services League); Major H G Bruce, Chairman, Colditz Association, with Captain Kenneth Lockwood, Secretary; Mr N A Gilman (RFC/RNAS Veterans Association), Mr Patrick Godby (Returned Services Association, British Commonwealth ex-Services League), and Mrs Godby, Mr Patrick Nolan (Returned Services Association) and Mrs Nolan, Mr J J Fallon (Gallipoli Association), and Mrs Fallon, Group-Captain Goodman (RAF Benevolent Fund).

Dr Alan Borg (director, Imperial War Museum); Mr V D Williams (honorary general secretary, UKCVA), with Mrs Denise Patterson; Major W D Peck (Royal Wessex Yeomanry), Mr E Sharpin (Brotherhood of Veterans of the Greek Campaign), and Mr John Buchanan and Mrs Buchanan (NZ Womens' Association), together with many other members of the VC and GC Association and other friends.

Forthcoming marriages

Sub Lieutenant C.J.H. Barber, RN, and Miss P.M.L. Cameron

The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Barber, of Cumnor, Oxfordshire, and Patricia, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Iain Cameron, of Botley, Hampshire.

Mr R.G. Berry and Miss J.J. Morgan

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Jim Berry and Mrs Margaret Beese, of Bristol, and Jennifer, younger daughter of Mr Andrew Morgan, of Chalford Hill, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Jane Morgan, of Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Mr D.M. Browne and Miss C.R. John

The engagement is announced between Daniel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Browne, of Churt, Farnham, Surrey, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Martyn John, of Croesllywarch, Tredunnock, Gwent.

Mr S.P. Cunningham and Miss E.R. Williams

The engagement is announced between Simon Patrick, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P.J.A. Cunningham, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Eleanor Ruth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.J.W. Williams, of Devizes, Wiltshire.

Mr L.F. Owens and Miss K.E. Dewey Smith

The engagement is announced between Lloyd Francis, younger son of Mr and Mrs N. Owens, of Manjimup, Western Australia, and Kate Emma, only daughter of Mr T.W. Dewey Smith, of Beslé s. Vilaine, France, and Mrs W.A. Hopkins, of Pidley, Cambridgeshire.

Mr P.J.M.N. Lequeux and Miss F.A. Hicks

The engagement is announced between Pierré, son of Mr and Mrs Jean-Claude Lequeux, of Grèges, Normandy, and Finalé, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Hicks, of Pulborough, West Sussex.

Mr G.M. Sagar and Miss A.L. Knights

The engagement is announced between Gregory, son of Mr and Mrs I.M. Sagar, of Guildford, Surrey, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs I.B. Knights, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr B. Squires and Dr J.A. Hendry

The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Dr and Mrs Dick Squires, of Wantage, Oxfordshire, and Julie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs William Hendry, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr M.K. Turner and Miss R.M. Ravenhill

The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs K.G. Turner, of Chertsey, Surrey, and Rebecca, only daughter of Mr J.F. Ravenhill, of Lower Parkstone, Dorset, and of Mrs P.H. Grove, of Pyrford, Surrey.

Mr C.J. Walker and Miss Y.M. Marquez

The engagement is announced between Calvin, elder son of John and Marcia Walker, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Yvette, daughter of John and Joan Marquez, of Gulfport, Mississippi, USA.

Marriage

Mr C.W.P.O. de la Hey and Miss P.N. Tarlton

The marriage took place quietly in London on Friday, April 28, between Mr William de la Hey and Miss Phyllida Tarlton.

Royal engagements

Today

The Duke of Edinburgh and other Members of the Royal Family, will attend a reception and banquet for heads of state and government attending the ceremonies to mark the 50th anniversary of VE-Day at Guildhall at 7.15.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will open the Hyde Park exhibition and take the salute at a parade of veterans at 11.30 to mark the 50th anniversary of VE-Day.

Prince Edward will attend the Pilkington Cup final between Bath and Wasps at Twickenham at 2.30.

Tomorrow

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family will attend a service of celebration of peace in St Paul's Cathedral at 11.00; Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will also attend.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a luncheon at Buckingham Palace at 12.45 for heads of state and government attending the service in St Paul's Cathedral; and with other members of the Royal Family will attend a heads of state and government ceremony in Hyde Park at 3.30 to mark the 50th anniversary of VE-Day.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Maximilien de Robespierre, French Revolution leader, Arras, 1758; Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyst, Freiberg (Pribor, Czechoslovakia), 1856; Robert Peary, Arctic explorer, Cresson, Pennsylvania, 1856; Stanley Morison, typographer and historian of *The Times*, Wanstead, Essex, 1889; Rudolph Valentino, film star, Castellaneta, Italy, 1895; Orson Welles, actor, director and producer, Kenosha, Wisconsin, 1915.

DEATHS: Cornelius Jansen, theologian, Ypres, 1638; Baron Alexander von Humboldt, explorer and scientist, Berlin, 1859; King Edward VII, reigned 1901-10, Buckingham Palace, 1910; Maurice Maeterlinck, poet and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1911, Nice, 1949; Maria Montessori, educator, Noordwijkaan, The Netherlands, 1952.

Peter Minuit, a Dutch settler, bought Manhattan Island from local Indians for trinkets worth about $25, 1626.

Lord Frederick Cavendish and T.H. Burke were murdered by fenians in Phoenix Park, Dublin, 1882.

The accession of King George V, 1910.

The German airship *Hindenberg* exploded on landing at New Jersey, killing 33 of those on board, 1937.

Roger Bannister ran a mile in less than four minutes at the Iffley Road track in Oxford, 1954.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: David Hume, philosopher, Edinburgh, 1711; Robert Browning, poet, London, 1812; Norman Shaw, architect, Edinburgh, 1831; Johannes Brahms, composer, Hamburg, 1833; Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composer, Votkinsk, Russia, 1840; Marshal Tito (Josip Broz), President of Yugoslavia 1953-80, Kumrovec, 1892; Gary Cooper, film star, Helena, Montana, 1901; Sir Huw Wheldon, broadcaster, 1916.

DEATHS: Antonio Salieri, composer, Vienna, 1825; Thomas Barnes, Editor of *The Times* 1817-41, London, 1841; William Lever, 1st Viscount Leverhulme, soap manufacturer and philanthropist, Hampstead, 1925; George Lansbury, leader of the Labour Party 1932-35, London, 1940.

The first Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, opened in London, 1663.

The first Isle of Man TT race was held, 1907.

Nearly 2,000 people perished when the *Lusitania* was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, 1915.

Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, 1945.

Reception

HM Government

Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, was the host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government last night in Edinburgh Castle to mark the Womens National Commission Conference.

Dinners

Cordwainers' Company

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their Ladies, received the guests at a civic dinner of the Cordwainers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Donald Birts, Master, assisted by the wardens, presided. The Lord Mayor, the Master, Baroness Gardner of Parkes and Mr Michael Uren were the speakers.

Army Board

The Secretary of State for Defence was the host at a dinner given by the Army Board last night at Lancaster House to mark VE-Day.

Among those present were:

The Duke of Wellington, KG, Earl Jellicoe, Viscount Cranborne, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Viscount Slim, Viscount Astor, Lord Poole, Lord Sterling of Plaistow, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, Lord Henley, Lady Soames, Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, Mr Alastair Goodlad, MP, Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir William Rous, the Hon Nicholas Soames, MP, Sir Fitzroy Maclean, KT, Field Marshal Sir John Stanier, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Admiral Sir Benjamin Bathurst, General Sir Michael Wilkes, General Sir John Wilsey, General Sir Charles Guthrie, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, Sir John Chilcot, Dame Susan Tinson, Lieutenant-General Robert Hayman-Joyce, Lieutenant-General Reginald Otto, Major-General Tim Granville-Chapman, Mr David Maclean, MP, Judge Rant, QC, Mr Richard Mottram, Mr Moray Stewart, Mrs Stella Rimington, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin, Professor Robert O'Neill, Mr Colin Cullimore and Mr Giles Shepard.

Cheam Hawtreys

1995 is the 350th Anniversary of Cheam School. The occasion is being celebrated by events at the School on June 16, 17 and 18, at which all past, present and future pupils, staff, parents and friends are welcome. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive information please contact the Headmaster, Christopher Evers, Cheam Hawtreys, Headley, Newbury, RG19 8LD. Tel: 01635 268242, Fax: 269345.

Mr Guy A. Deaton

A Memorial Service for Mr Guy A. Deaton will be held in the Chapel of St John Baptist, Forest School, Snaresbrook, London, E17, tel: 0181 520 1744, at 2.00pm on Friday, June 9. All will be welcome.

Royal Institute of Oil Painters

Mr Frederick Beckett, has been elected the new President of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters. He becomes the 11th president since the Institute was founded in 1883.

Service dinner

The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire

The Duchess of Kent, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, was present at a regimental dinner held last night at the Army and Navy Club, Piccadilly.

Major-General A.B. Crowfoot, Colonel of the Regiment, was in the chair.

Weekend birthdays

Today

Sir John Arnold, former President of the Family Division, 80; the Marquess of Bath, 63; General Sir Jeremy Blacker, 56; Mr Tony Blair, leader of the Labour Party, 42; the Earl of Caledon, 40; Mr Roy Cooke, former director, Coventry School Foundation, 65; Professor Rosemary Cramp, archaeologist, 66; Miss Carol Ellis, QC, editor, *The Law Reports*, 66; Sir Frank Ereaut, former Bailiff of Jersey, 76; Mr Robert Fell, former chief executive, Stock Exchange, 74; Mr J.R. Henderson, Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, 75; Mr Charles Hendry, MP, 36; Mr John Hutton, MP, 40; the Earl of Leicester, 59; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Martell, 83; Miss Tracy Mulligan, fashion designer, 33; Lord Pender, 62; Miss Eleanor Plant, QC, 57; Mr Alan Ross, author, 73; Mr Graeme Souness, football manager, 42; the Right Rev John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans, 66.

Tomorrow

Mr Scobie Breasley, jockey, 80; Lord Briggs, 74; Mr Peter Carey, author, 52; Viscount Cross, 75; Sir Charles Cunningham, civil servant, 89; Professor A.W. Cuthbert, Master, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 63; Mr Mik Flood, director, Institute of Contemporary Arts, 46; Sir Reay Geddes, former chairman, Dunlop, 83; Professor R.Y. Goodden, architect, 86; Sir James Gowans, former deputy chairman, Medical Research Council, 71; the Right Rev Robert Taylor Halliday, Bishop of Brechin, 63; Viscount Hampden, 58; Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison, explorer, 59; Mr Michael Hawkes, former vice-chairman, Kleinwort Benson group, 66; Sir Lenox Hewitt, Australian industrialist, 78; Miss Anya Hindmarsh, designer, 27; Sir Michael Hopkins, architect, 60; the Rev Peter Hullah, Headmaster, Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, 46; Mrs Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, author, 68; Lord Kirkhill, 65; Sir David Landale, company director, 61; Mr David Leach, potter, 84; Mr James Lewett, organist, 86; Dr Calum Macdonald, MP, 39; Sir Neil Macfarlane, former MP, 59; Mr David Marshall, MP, 54; Sir Basil Nield, former MP and High Court judge, 92; Dr Tony O'Reilly, chairman, H.J. Heinz Company, 59; Mr Richard O'Sullivan, actor, 51; Mr John Padovan, chairman, AAH, 57; Professor Canon Roy Porter, theologian, 74; Mr W.M. Pybus, company chairman, 72; Mr C.J. Saunders, Headmaster, Lancing College, 55; Sir Arthur Snelling, diplomat, 81; Miss Elisabeth Söderstrom, soprano, 68; Mr Clive Soley, MP, 56; Miss Mary Spillane, founder, Colour Me Beautiful, 45; Mr David Tomlinson, actor, 78; Sir Alan Traill, former Lord Mayor of London, 60; Major-General H.G. Woods, 71.

Church services tomorrow

Third Sunday after Easter

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Missa Ave Jesu (Oldroyd), Missa Ave Jesu (Lennox Berkeley), The Provost.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP, 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass for Four Voices (Byrd), Christus vincit, O salutaris hostia (Elgar), The Provost; 4 Choral E, Responses (Shephard), Andrew Carter (Wakefield Service).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M; 10.30 Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), Canon J Hall; 4 Choral E, The Provost.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Jubilate Deo (Lassus), Missa Sancti Joannes De Deo (Haydn), How beautiful are the feet (Handel), Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Choral E, The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar), Canon P Johnson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30, 12 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Ives), Magdalen cease from sobs and sighs (arr Hurlford); 9.30 M; 10.45 VE-Day Service, Three Antiphons (Taverner), Ireland in F, Sir H Leach; 3.15 E, Responses (Ciucas), St Paul's Service (Howells); 6.30 Christian Aid Service, Rev Dr I Griffiths.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch; 11 VE-Day Service, Sing ye to the Lord (Balrstow), Love one another (Wesley), And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Britten in C, Rev D Frith; 3 E, Responses (Byrd), Wood in E flat.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon D Knight; 11.15 S Euch, The Holy Eucharist (Harris), Coll Reg (Howells), Canon B Thompson; 3.30 Deanery Visit; 6 Choral E, Os justi (Bruckner), The Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch, John Rutter in D, Jesu the very thought is sweet (Vittoria), Canon J Newsome; 11.30 VE-Day Service; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Sanders), Stanford in C, Thou will keep him in perfect peace (SS Wesley); 6.30 ES, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells), Canon M Rees.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 BBC Radio VE-Day Service; 11 S Euch, Darke in A minor, Tantum ergo (Duruflé), Rt Rev C Luxmoore; 3.30 E, Coll Reg (Howells), Blessed be the God and Father (SS Wesley).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Messe Solonelle (Vierne), Stanford in B flat, Man that is born of woman (Purcell), Pastorin Ulrike Birkner; 5.30 E, Round me falls the night (Dresel), Responses (Tomkins), Second Service (Gibbons).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 10.15 VE-Day Service, Rt Rev P Rodger; 3.30 E, My soul there is a country (Parry).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Bishop C Knuth; 2.15 VE-Day Service.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Setting (Darke in F), View me Lord (Lloyd), The Precentor; 11.15 M, Responses (Leighton), Boyce in C, Justorum animae (Stanford), The Dean; 3 E, Coll Reg (Wood), Greator love (Ireland); 6.30 E, Good Christian men (Bullock), Canon D Ison.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 VE-Day Service, Te Deum (Stanford), The Bishop; 4 Choral E, Responses (Ayleward), Stanford in C, Canon Chantellor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Leighton), Jubilate in C (Stanford), Tantum ergo Ide Severaci, The Dean; 3.30 E, Second Service (Byrd), Dum transisset Sabbatum (Taverner).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Merbecke & Jackson in G, The Subdean; 11.15 M, Responses (Rose), 3 VE-Day Service, Coll Reg (Howells), Three Antiphons (Taverner), The Bishop; 5 EP.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 VE-Day Service, Te Deum in G (V Williams), The Bishop; 3 Choral E, Stanford in G, Canon M Boyling; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 H Euch, The Dean; 9 Euch, Rev N Court; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Preston), Creed (Merbecke), Haec dies quam fecit Dominus (Wood), Rev J Redvers; 12.15 H Euch; 3.30 Choral E, Second Service (Tomkins), God is our hope (Greene); 6.30 E, Mr K Hall.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9, 12.15 HC; 10.30 VE-Day Service; 6.30 E, The Dean.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Canon B Langley, Addington Service (Shephard); 11.30 VE-Day Service, Coll to Remembrance (Farrant), Draw us in the Spirit's tether (Harold Friedell), Coll Reg (Howells); 6 Psalm 18 (1-32).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mass for eight voices (Hassler), Christus factus est (Anerio), Rev H Searle; 11.30 M, Responses (Shephard), Te Deum in C (Vaughan Williams), Jubilate (Walton), Awake thou wintry earth (Bach), Canon J Stewart; 3 E, Responses (Shephard), My beloved spake (Purcell); 5 Service for Wessex Walks.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Messe solennelle (Langlais), Sing joyfully (Mundy), Ave verum (Elgar), Rev Canon D Atkinson; 3 E, Coll Reg (Howells), My beloved spake (Hadley), Rev G Swinton.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Treasurer; 10 S Euch, O sing joyfully (Batten), Coronation Mass (Mozart), The Treasurer; 6 E, Responses (Shephard), Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Shephard), Canon M Boxall.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Smith), Te Deum in E (Britten), Sing joyfully (Byrd), Canon D Hutt; 11.15 Euch, Mass in four parts/Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Haec est dies (Handel), The Dean; 3 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Rev J Osborne; 6.30 E, Rev P Chester.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12.15, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 SM, Vidi aquam (Palmsong), Western Wind Mass (Taverner), Angelus Domini (Cecilonini), Nun Danket alle Gott (Peeters); 10 MP; 3.30 V&B, Ad coenam Agni providi (Victoria), Exsultate Deo (Poulenc).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M; 10.30 L, Miss. Brevis (Berkeley), The Dean; 3 VE-Day Service, Lord Runcie; 5.30 E.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Haec dies (Wood), Mass for four voices (Byrd), Rev Canon R Metcalfe; 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat, Responses (Jackson); 4 E, Harwood in A flat, Dirk Dominus (Mozart), Rev Canon J Toy.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Miss Euge Bone (Tye), The Dean; 3.30 VE-Day Service.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Fr A Bradley; 1.30 Asian Chaplaincy Mass, Fr A Fernandes.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8, 5 HC; 8.45 M; 11 VE-Day Service; 3.15 E, The Edington Service (Ives), Light of the Word (Elgar), Rev M Seward.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Mass in E minor (Bruckner), Sing to the Lord (Balrstow), Rev P Johnstone; 6 E&B, Alleluya Christe is now risen agayne (Vaughan Williams), Rt Rev A Weekes.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa sine nomine (Heredia), Sing we merrily (Batten), Maria Magdalene (Gabrieli).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 C, Rev P Elvy; 6 E, Mr D Royce.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30, Rev S Hood; 12.20 HC.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa Laudis (Peeters), Ave mundi gloria (Langlais), Agnus Dei (Caplet), Pater Noster (De Klerk), Fr M Beazzle.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Informal, Rev S Millar; 5, 7.30 Informal, Jeremy Jennings.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Messe du Sacre Coeur (Gounod), Sub tuum praesidium (Mozart), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Ave Maria (Victoria).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 MP, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R John Tudor (VE Commemoration & Street Party).

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch; 6.30 Choral E.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Easter Anthems from Cavalleria Rusticana, How beautiful upon the mountains (Stainer), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Chichester Service (Walton), Canon J Oates.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev J McIndoe; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Mass in E flat (Goller), Ave Maria (Arvinsky), Modus laudendi plenum pedaliter (Scheidt).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Whitlock in G, Be still my soul (Whitlock), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Leighton), My Shepherd is the living Lord (Tomkins), Rev A Meldrum; 6 Choral E, Faubourdons (Byrd).

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C, Solemn Melody (Walford Davies), Rev J Richardson; 6.30 Celebrate Africa, Rev J Ajenumobi.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Rev S Watson; 6.30 E, Sing joyfully (Byrd), Rev D Watson.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa Ellensis (Wills), Ye Choirs of Jerusalem (Stanford), Rev A Shaw.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Rev R Holloway.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC; 1, Rev W Ranchford; 9.45 Euch, V Rev G Henwood; 11.30 Visitors, Terry Waite, 5.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES, The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 9.30 Euch, The Vicar; 11.15 Choral M, Rev M Fuller; 6.30 E, Mr N Pain; 6.30 Choral E.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa Pulsque j'ai perdu (Lassus), Fr S Leamy; 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Leighton in D, Set me as a seal, Rev Lyndon van der Pump; 6 Choral E, Purcell in G minor, Alleluia I heard a voice (Weelkes).

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa secunda (Hassler), Cantate Domino (Hassler), Jubilate Deo (Lassus), Rev N Dawson.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 11 S Euch, Paschal Kyrie (Sheppard), Missa Euge Bone (Tye), Rise heart (Vaughan Williams), Scherzo (Balrstow), Fr D Tillyer.

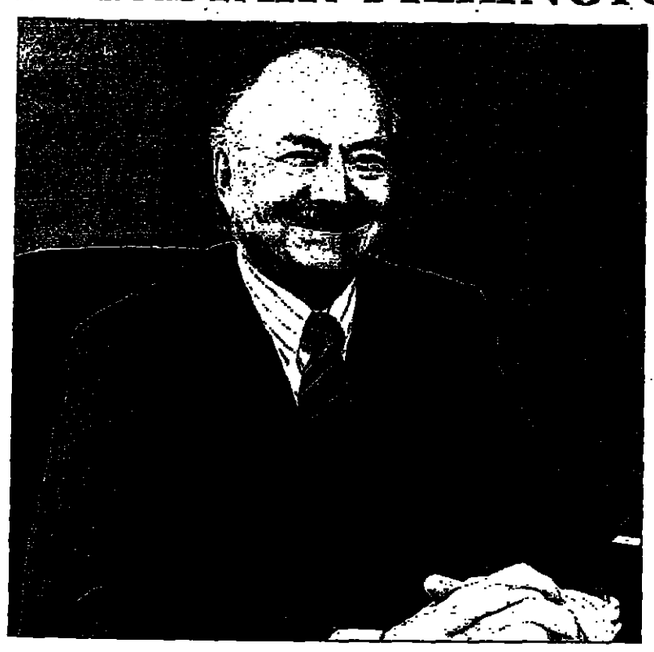
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Messe Regina Sancti Rosarii (Rheinberger), O Mysterium Ineffabile (Lalliouette), Ave verum (Fauré), Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Reading), And I saw a new He

OBITUARIES

SIR ALASTAIR PILKINGTON

Sir Alastair Pilkington, FRS, inventor, company chairman and philanthropist, died in London yesterday aged 75. He was born in Calcutta on January 7, 1920.



ALASTAIR PILKINGTON was responsible for one of the most important inventions since the war. It completely transformed the flat glass industry and is now in use all over the world. The development of his revolutionary float glass process into a saleable money-maker took another decade. And his advocacy in the teeth of many problems — even when the full-scale production plant was losing more than £1million a year — was equally crucial to its ultimate success in the early 1960s. The £6million it has subsequently earned in fees and royalties, as it came to replace not only plate but also sheet glass throughout the world, has enabled Pilkingtons to expand its own manufacturing operations abroad, to acquire the largest glass manufacturer in Germany, Flachglas, and the second largest in the United States (the glass interest of Libbey-Owens-Ford) and to emerge as the world's leading glass producer.

The remarkable fact is that Alastair Pilkington himself was not a member of the St Helens glass-making family. Born Lionel Alexander Bethune Pilkington — Alastair was his own choice of Christian name — he was the second son of Lionel and Evelyn Pilkington. His father, an engineer, had become a reserve officer in 1911 and had served throughout the First World War. As an ex-soldier, he believed in constant exercise of mind and body, while Alastair's mother was a Christian Scientist. His upbringing from the earliest days in Calcutta, where his father worked for a few years, and then from the mid-1920s in England, taught him to exercise his mind over a wide range of subjects.

After school at Sherborne, he went up to Cambridge in 1938 to read mechanical sciences — and to pick up a Blue at squash and a half Blue at fives. He became a reserve officer in the Royal Artillery, arguing that "if there is to be a war, it will be safer among the Regulars". He was posted to Egypt a week before war was declared and was in the thick of the fighting in Greece. He was one of the last to escape from there. In Crete, however, he spent precious time rounding up the stragglers and when he brought them to the evacuation beach, lots had to be drawn for the few remaining places in the boats. He spent the rest of the war as a prisoner-of-war in Germany; but he used his days busily learning the clarinet, playing in the camp orchestra, reading books for his course when he returned to Cambridge and keeping fit. He resumed his degree in October 1945 — and picked up a lawn tennis Blue. He had married in July Patricia Elliott, daughter of the rear-admiral in command of Alexandria, to whom he had become engaged when in Egypt.

It was at this juncture that his father, then managing director of Pulsometer, Reading, played a vital part in his son's career. He was interested in his family tree and so was Richard Pilkington, a non-executive member of the St Helens glass-making family, who had just lost his seat in Parliament. Having failed to find any link between the two branches, he let it be known that he had a very able son reading engineering at Cambridge. Any chance of a job at St Helens?

As it happened, St Helens was at that time searching high and low for suitable engineers. The Pilkington board considered Richard Pilkington's communication at the end of November 1945 and came to the remarkable conclusion that a suitably qualified member of the Pilkington family, "however remote", could be accepted only as a potential family director. Alastair was later vetted at St Helens. It was clear that his outlook on business and life fitted in very well with that of the St Helens Pilkingtons who believed that any director ought to be abler and more hard-working than anyone else employed by the company.

Accordingly, he arrived at St Helens in August 1947 straight from Cambridge. Accelerated promotion brought him on to the board in 1953 where he found himself defending continued expenditure on float glass even though, as he later confessed, "if we had known all the horrors ahead, we would never have started".

He shared the St Helens Pilkingtons' social conscience and sense of community. As early as 1957 he succeeded Sir Harry (later Lord) Pilkington as chairman of the St Helens Housing Association, a charity to help house the town's elderly. Nearly twenty years later, in 1976, he formed the St Helens Trust, in collaboration with other businessmen in the area and the local authority, in order to help those made redundant to set up their own small businesses (not only with financial help but more importantly with practical management advice). Here, he was again a pioneer. His ideas were later adopted on a national scale. He became founder-chairman of the Council of Business in the Community, 1982-85, later to receive the support of the Prince of Wales. He served on the Wellcome Foundation during the 1980s. He was as innovative in various charitable fields as he had been as a company director and a leader in spreading the ideas of business making its contribution to the public welfare.

In addition to his fellowship of the Royal Society, to which he was elected in 1969, honorary degrees were showered upon him — partly, no doubt, because he was particularly concerned with higher education. He had been Pro-Chancellor of Lancaster University between 1980 and 1990 and became the Chancellor of Liverpool University — with which he had close earlier connections — just a year ago.

Since 1990 he had devoted much of his energy to his own university, Cambridge, through his work as the first chairman of the Cambridge Foundation. He became an honorary fellow of his own old college, Trinity, Imperial College, London, and of the London School of Economics.

Music continued to be a particular interest. He remained physically active almost to the very end, especially in sailing and skiing. Within the last year or two he had taken to hang-gliding.

His first wife died in 1977. He is survived by his second wife, Kathleen, the widow of Eldridge Haynes, founder of Business International, and by a son and a daughter from his first marriage as well as by three stepchildren.

S. GORLEY PUTT

S. Gorley Putt, OBE, former Warden of Harkness House, London, and Senior Tutor of Christ's College, Cambridge, died on April 24 aged 81. He was born in Brixham on June 9, 1913.



GORLEY PUTT (he disdained the use of his first name) was the antithesis of Belloc's "remote and ineffectual don"; for the last 27 years of his career, as a fellow of Christ's College, his greatest joy was to befriend the young and to introduce them to the finer things of life. "My friends are the undergraduates, chaps and chapesses," he recorded in his autobiography *Wings of a Man's Life*: "and as long as I can pour good wine down their gullets and listen into the small hours of their hopes and try to encourage the sensibilities of the unambitious, then I can go on spouting the shortest teachers' training course ever invented... Remember my two rules: You must love your subject of study. You must love your pupils."

Samuel Gorley Putt (his second and preferred name was also his mother's maiden name) was born into a seafaring family in Brixham. His father was drowned in 1918 when, as commodore of a convoy, his ship was torpedoed while making for Milford Haven. As an only child, Putt was much thrown onto his own resources and spent his time, when opportunity afforded, swimming or sailing and, at all other times, in voracious reading. It was this early exposure to literature, complemented by exposure to good teaching of English at Torquay Grammar School, that caused him to fall under the spell of "that unbounded affluence of one ever-present agency for heart and brain alike — the English language."

It was a passion that pervaded his whole life and caused him to write innumerable literary reviews, to publish a volume of poems as well as several books including two on Henry James, and to be elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1952.

Putt won a Devon county major scholarship to Christ's in 1930 to read English; he graduated in 1933 with a first-class degree. After a year of research into "Jacobethan" drama, he succeeded in gaining a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship. This award, which enabled him not only to acquire, at Yale University, the first of his two MA degrees but also to travel widely throughout the United States, laid the foundation of his abiding affection for America; it also initiated his connection with the fund which was to employ him for nearly 20 years later in his career. Putt vividly recounted his experiences, and those of other Commonwealth Fund fellows, in his *View from Atlantis* (1955).

On his return from the US in 1936, Putt joined the BBC as a Talks Assistant. However, after a year in the post he felt increasingly unhappy at what he termed "the flurried unrewarding anonymity" of his job and resigned. After a brief period of literary reviewing he took up a one-year lectureship in English at the University College of the South West, at Exeter. This was followed by a brief period at Queen's University, Belfast, as warden of a student hostel and secretary of the appointments committee. But when the Second World War broke out Putt volunteered for the Royal Navy; consequently, by mid-1940, he found himself in the uniform of an ordinary seaman and shortly thereafter on a 1917-vintage destroyer engaged on convoy duty. He chronicled his experiences below deck in his first book, *Men dressed as Seamen* (1943). In 1941 Putt was posted to Bletchley Park as an officer in Naval Intelligence; he remained in the Royal Navy until, in the rank of lieutenant-commander, he returned to Exeter in 1946, as Warden of Crossmead Hall and Tutor for Overseas Students. In the 1945 general election he stood unsuccessfully for Torquay.

In 1949 Putt was appointed Warden of Harkness House, London, the British base for the Commonwealth Fund's fellowship programme; he became the first non-American director of the fund's division of international fellowships in 1966. During this time Putt initiated a highly successful programme of European-US fellowships; he was appointed OBE in 1966 in recognition of his services in fostering international friendship and in 1980 was appointed as *Cavaliere* of the Italian Order of Merit.

Putt left Harkness House in order to accept the full-time Senior Tutorship of Christ's College in 1968; he held this office until his retirement in 1978. These years were marked by great changes in collegiate life: the early period was disturbed by much student unrest; the latter saw the admission of women into the hitherto all-male society. That the college survived these events to its ultimate benefit is due to a large extent to Putt's patience.

Gorley Putt never married, although he privately regretted this. He regarded the college as his family and treated young and old alike with unfailing courtesy, warmth and infectious good humour. His favourite author, Henry James, might have had Putt in mind when he wrote: "He was so particularly the English gentleman... In what perfection England produces them!"

PROFESSOR LESLIE PYRAH

Professor Leslie Pyrah, CBE, urologist, died on April 30 aged 96. He was born on April 11, 1899.



LESLIE PYRAH was the first professor of urological surgery in the United Kingdom. Although primarily a surgeon interested in the art of his speciality, he was one of the first to realise the importance of the scientific approach to urology, and the Medical Research Council Unit, of which he was honorary director, played a large part in elucidating many of the problems involved, such as that of stone of the kidney.

Leslie Norman Pyrah graduated BSc from Leeds University in 1922, proceeding to his MB, ChB in 1924. In 1929 he was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and the following year became ChM. These six postgraduate years were occupied by resident posts ranging over a wide field of surgery, giving him that invaluable background of general surgery that was to prove so useful when he finally specialised.

In 1934 he was appointed assistant surgeon to the Leeds General Infirmary and lecturer in surgery in Leeds University, thus starting on a career which was to culminate in his being appointed surgeon in charge of the newly formed department of urology in Leeds General Infirmary and St James's Hospital. Six years later he was appointed to a personal chair in the university.

His reputation was international, as exemplified by the numerous lectures he was invited to give overseas — in, for example, the United States, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, India and South Africa, as well as in many European countries. At home, among the lectures he delivered were the Litchfield Lecture in Oxford University in 1959 and the Hunterian Oration of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1969.

He also served as president of the British Association of Urological Surgeons, which awarded him in 1963 its St Peter's Medal for outstanding contributions to urology, and as president of the section of urology of the Royal Society of Medicine.

In 1965 his old university made him an honorary DSc and elected him emeritus professor. He also served as a member of the university's joint committee on higher surgical training.

Independence — the traditional, sometimes rugged, independence of a Yorkshireman — was the hallmark of his life, characterising all his work and allowing him to achieve all he did for the speciality, of which he was such a distinguished member. He was appointed CBE in 1963.

He married Mary Christopher Batley in 1934. She died in 1990. He is survived by one son and one daughter. One son predeceased him.

KENNETH GARDNER

Kenneth Gardner, Deputy Keeper of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books at the British Library, 1974-86, died on April 18 aged 70. He was born on June 5, 1924.



KEN GARDNER was a world-renowned expert on ancient Japanese books and received the Order of the Sacred Treasure in 1979 from Emperor Hirohito for his work on Japanese studies in Japan and England.

Then in February this year, his *Descriptive Catalogue Of Japanese Books In The British Library Printed Before 1700*, published by The British Library last year, won him the Yamagata Banto Prize from the Osaka district government, worth 3 million yen (£19,450).

This award, for a book which took nine years of preparation, has been given to only one other British person and marked a crowning point in Gardner's career.

Kenneth Burslam Gardner attended Alleyne's Grammar School in Stevenage and then University College London.

During the Second World War his skills as a linguist led to his learning Japanese and he was drafted straight into the Intelligence Corps as a captain.

He served in India, Burma and Sumatra from 1943 to 1947, where he interrogated Japanese prisoners and translated captured documents.

He was wounded in Sumatra when a party of three Jeeps was ambushed. His life was saved by a Japanese officer who dragged him into a forest and then conveyed him to a hospital.

After the war Gardner gained first class honours in Japanese from the School of Oriental and African Studies. He then spent most of his working life as a Keeper of printed books and manuscripts at the British Museum — with four years as Principal Keeper — before five libraries were amalgamated to become the British Library. There he became Keeper of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books and Japanese specialist.

Gardner was an enthusiastic choral singer and after retiring eight years ago, he was the Japan Society's librarian at the Japanese embassy in London.

Ken Gardner is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1949, and by two sons and two daughters.

THE REV ROBERT LEANEY

The Rev Robert Leaney, biblical scholar and Professor of Theology, University of Nottingham, 1969-74, died on April 5 aged 85. He was born on June 8, 1909.



ROBERT LEANEY made his first impact on biblical studies in 1956, the year he published his monumental study of the Gospel of St Luke. But the book which made his name was his *Penguin Guide to Modern Theology*, published towards the end of a turbulent theological decade in 1970. Designed to pull together the various threads in the debate launched by John Robinson's *Honest to God* (1963), Leaney's paperback had as its objective bridging the gulf between new scholarship and the traditional believer. Through its erudition and its accessibility it largely succeeded in this purpose.

Alfred Robert Clare Leaney was the son of a civil servant working in Birmingham. Very much through his own efforts, he won an exhibition in classics to Hertford College, Oxford, where he took a second in both Mods and Greats. He went on to train for the ministry at Ripon Hall, Oxford, being ordained by the famous "modernist" Bishop of Birmingham, E. W. Barnes, in 1933. After a curacy at Oldbury in the Birmingham diocese, he became vicar of the Sussex village of Mountfield, from where he volunteered to be a chaplain to the forces (he had been a pacifist but changed his mind, largely under the influence of William Temple, then Archbishop of York). He served with the Royal Sussex Regiment and the end of the war found him in Germany, where he became involved in the restoration of morale among the Protestant clergy who had suffered the indignity of witnessing their leaders become largely subservient to Hitler. (There were exceptions, like Bonhoeffer and Niemöller, but not many.)

Back in England, his original patron, Bishop Barnes, gave him the opportunity of combining parish with academic work in the Warwickshire living of Wishaw. He took an Oxford BD in 1952, having two years earlier joined the staff of Queen's College, Birmingham. His next move was back to his own old college of Ripon Hall, then very much a recruiting agency for the Modern Churchmen's Union. Leaney was sufficient of a sound biblical scholar not to be at all fazed by the rolling waters of theological liberalism and enjoyed his final two years as vice-principal.

In 1956 he left Oxford — though he did not cut all connection with it (the university awarded him a a DD in 1966) — to join the staff of the newly-established department of theology at Nottingham University. There he was to spend the rest of his active career, rising from being lecturer when he joined to being professor and head of department when he retired in 1974.

Leaney always wanted to bring the fruits of biblical criticism to the common man, particularly in the light of the 1947 discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. This discovery animated the endeavour of the historians who for so long had vainly attempted an answer to the common man's question as to what *actually* happened in the Palestine of Jesus and John the Baptist. Leaney set to work with a deep passion: whereas the traditional historian had had a small window into 1st-century Palestine, the discovery of the scrolls, he said later, "blew out the side of the whole building". The result was a *Popular Guide to the Scrolls* and in 1966 his monumental work *The Rule of Qumran and its Meaning* as part of the SCM New Testament Library series.

Leaney was hugely energetic and this gave a special character to his later teaching. He combined a passion for investigation with making it intelligible to the layman; he was determined to engage the non-specialist in the discoveries of modern history, archaeology and manuscript research.

He retired to Bath and enjoyed parish work, music-making and setting questions on religion for BBC TV's *Mastermind*.

He is survived by his son; his wife died three weeks before he did.

PERSONAL COLUMN

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Annual General Meeting of The Royal Naval Lay Readers Society will be held in the Home Club Portsmouth on Monday 15 May 1995 at 1400 and will be preceded by a Eucharist in Saint Ann's Church HM Naval Base Portsmouth at 1200. Lunch will be available in the Home Club from 13.00.

LEGAL NOTICES

Company Number: 3367751
The Insolvency Act 1986
Stafford Knight & Co (Underwriting Agencies) Limited
Registered Office:
1 Riding House Street
London
W1A 3AS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at 1 Riding House Street, London W1A 3AS on 18 May 1995 at 3.15 p.m. for the purposes provided for in sections 100 and 101 of the Act. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Smith & Williamson, 1 Riding House Street, London W1A 3AS on the two business days prior to the meeting of creditors between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. Dated this 2nd day of May 1995
R A Doubtfire
Director

N. SEARLES TOOL MAKERS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Casson Beckman & Partners, Insolvency Practitioners, Hobson House, 155 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BJ on Tuesday 9th May 1995 at 11.00am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99,100 and 101 of the said Act. Pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Act lists of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Casson Beckman & Partners, Insolvency Practitioners, Hobson House, 155 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BJ on the two business days falling next before the day of the Meeting.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
P.Searles
Chairman
Dated this 24th day of April 1995

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE ... 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the de ... ased person's whose names, add ... ses and descriptions are set out b ... low is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
PENHALLOW, GEORGE, 14 CLIFTON ROAD MAIDA VALE LONDON W9 died 17 November 1993: particulars to PIPER SMITH & BASHAM, SOLICITORS, (Ref: P.124.4.MS.SM) 31 WARWICK SQUARE, LONDON, SW1V 2AF BEFORE 15 JULY 1995.
PENHALLOW, HILDA KATHERINE, 14 CLIFTON ROAD, MAIDA VALE, LONDON W9, died 5 September 1993: particulars to PIPER SMITH & BASHAM, SOLICITORS, (ref: P.174.1.MS.SM) 31 WARWICK SQUARE LONDON SW1V 2AF BEFORE 15 JULY 1995.
WOOD, YETTA 206 PROBISHER HOUSE, DOLPHIN SQUARE, LONDON SW1, died 1st OCTOBER 1994: particulars to PIPER SMITH & BASHAM, SOLICITORS, (Ref: MDS.JCW.W177/2) 31 WARWICK SQUARE LONDON SW1V 2AF BEFORE 15th JULY 1995.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

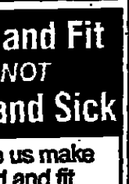
COLIN ALEXANDER would anyone knowing Colin Malcolm (Colonel) Alexander, ate Hms of Bombay and 498 High Road, Wormley, Herts. Ask him to contact John Cleary (Australia) giving his present address.

OPEN 9/6 St. Andrew's Luppitt week avail 17-23 July. Cottage 3 bdrms, fully staffed 10 min walk to course. 01464 820123.

THE HOLME Inner Circle Regents Park London NW1. Garden open 10am to 4pm Saturday 24th June Sunday 25th June 1995 Admission adults £2.00 children £1.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You helped us in ASSOCIATION now help us in ACTION



London Association for the Blind has changed its name. Now we're working even harder to provide better services to blind or partially sighted people; at our care homes, through employment or cash help for those in need. A donation or covenant now and a legacy later will make it all possible.

action for blind people

Ref TT, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ. Telephone: 071-732 8771
London Association for the Blind Registered Charity No. 226913

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Please help us give compassionate care to abused and abandoned cats and dogs and those whose owners have died or are seriously ill. Our sanctuary provides daily forest walks for dogs, and a monthly service in the poorer city areas. We spay not slay.

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(Reg Charity No 256788)

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Help us make old and fit a fact of life

A donation now and a legacy later, please

RESEARCH INTO AGEING
Dept TT/FREEPOST, London EC4B 4AD
(Formerly British Foundation for Age Research)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

We honour those who gave their best for our country. But what of those who shared the same horrors and survived... their minds shattered.

The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society cares for men and women from the services with varying degrees of mental illness in our convalescent homes and veterans home.

A donation now or a legacy later will help those who have given their most precious gift after life itself.

COMBAT STRESS
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RL Tel: 081-543 6333

HUGHES HALL
University Of Cambridge

Invites all Old Members to celebrate 100 years on our present site at a Reception and Recital on Saturday, 17 June 1995

Please write to **The President (Hughes Hall, Cambridge CB1 2EW)** for an invitation and details of our celebrations

THE TIMES

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

To place your Birth, Marriage or Death Notices over over the May 8th Bank Holiday please call during the following times.

Saturday 6th May 9.30am - 12.30pm
Monday 8th May 9.30 - 12.30pm

Tel: 0171 782 7272. Fax: 0171 782 7799
Where our staff will be available to take your call.

OBITUARY

MR. W. G. ROMAINE.

Mr. W. G. Romaine, whose death is announced, had in his time played many parts and played them well. He was the last of the civilians, except Sir Austen Layard and one other person, who were present with the British Army in the Crimea in 1854. Adventurous, fond of travel, a keen observer, high-spirited, zealous in all he undertook, Mr Romaine—who was a barrister without too much practice—when he was appointed as Deputy-Judge-Advocate to the Army of the East, no doubt eagerly abandoned his business for a term or two *animus revertendi*, and set out to accompany Lord Raglan's headquarters at a time when there was little expectation that sanguinary battles, a great siege, and such toils and privations as no English Army had ever been exposed to would involve his absence from profession and family for many weary months. The duties of his office were not onerous. Courts-martial were few, generals and officers had something else to think about. But Mr. Romaine made himself exceedingly useful to his chief. Mr. Kinglake, whose friend he was, mentions him several times in terms of well-deserved commendation. After the battle of the Alma Romaine's exertions on behalf of the wounded are recorded by Mr. Kinglake with much approbation:-

"On the day after the battle, the hundreds of Russians who lay wounded on the English part of the field had been brought to a sheltered spot of ground near the river. There they were laid down in even, parallel ranks, and in such a manner that the surface they covered with their prostrate bodies was a large, symmetrical oblong. The ground where they lay was at some short distance from the headquarters camp, and but little exposed to view. From this, it happened that not only the wounded Russians, but also the English soldiers mounting guard at the spot, were forgotten and left without food for many hours. Romaine came to know that these poor wounded Russians were lying untended, and he judged that, unless they were cared for, there would be a lasting blot upon the honour of the English name. An officer of the common stamp who had got to be possessed with such a feeling would have cheaply discharged his conscience by making a communication to Lord Raglan or some other 'proper authority.' Knowing the weight of cares pressing upon the chief, Romaine did not appeal to Lord Raglan, but began to act himself, giving no repose to any whose aid he needed, but disturbing nobody else. Under the power of his generous indignation and strong will all lethargy slowly gave way; and, having obtained 400lb of biscuits and the number of hands that were needed to aid him in the undertaking, he toiled at his good work until there was no one in all those prostrate ranks of wounded men who had not been tended with the offer of food and water. At the time, his exceeding zeal made him seem to be acting for the honour of some great cause much more than from tender pity: but what he felt he has owned and recorded."

ON THIS DAY

May 6 1893

Taking pity on some wounded Russians lying forgotten after the Battle of Alma during the Crimean War, W. G. Romaine got hold of 400lb of biscuits and with others worked ceaselessly to make sure that the injured had food and water. He was a friend of A. W. Kinglake, historian of that war.

NEWS

Battered Tories in loan rate gamble

■ John Major and Kenneth Clarke gambled in the wake of the Tories local election disaster by confounding all expectations that they would raise interest rates.

With Conservative MPs in a state of shell-shock after results that surpassed their worst fears, the Chancellor left interest rates at 6.75 per cent **Pages 1, 9, 10, 11**

Queen launches VE-Day thanksgiving

■ The Queen launched a momentous weekend of VE-Day commemorations when she led the nation in a very British thanksgiving for the end of the Second World War. The monarch attended Westminster Hall to receive loyal addresses from both her Houses of Parliament **Page 1**

Chirac alarm

The French presidential campaign closed with a last-minute warning from Jacques Chirac that abstainers could be helping the election of Lionel Jospin **Pages 1, 18**

School 'hit squad'

Gillian Shephard ordered a "hit squad" of experts to take control of a failing state school for the first time **Page 2**

Girl abducted

A girl aged five was abducted, sexually assaulted and dumped 40 miles from her home almost four hours later **Page 5**

Legal aid warning

The Government gave a blunt warning to justices' clerks that responsibility for granting criminal legal aid would be removed unless they improved controls **Page 7**

£5 million tiger

A magnificent portrait of a tiger by George Stubbs is expected to fetch some £5 million **Page 7**

Prayer mysteries

The clergy still believe in the power of prayer, but God sometimes answers their pleadings in mysterious ways **Page 8**

Croatian dispute

As Croat troops consolidated their positions around the Serbian enclave in western Slavonia, a new and damaging dispute erupted between peacekeepers and Croatian authorities **Page 17**

Russian pride

Russians will turn out next week to applaud their armed forces, 50 years after the Soviet military stormed Berlin **Page 17**

Briton killed

Islamic militants killed five more foreigners in southern Algeria, including one Briton **Page 19**

Strained relations

President Clinton flies to Russia on Monday for two-day visit that will highlight a sharp deterioration in relations **Page 19**

Summer smog blankets the country

■ The outer London suburb of Bexley became Britain's smog capital as the hot weather and congested roads sent pollution levels soaring. Bexley recorded 255 parts per billion of sulphur dioxide — double the safety limit. The Environment Department predicted that the smog would continue **Pages 1, 3**

SIMON WALKER



The Queen, with the Prince of Wales on her right, receives a presentation of address by the Lord Chancellor at Westminster Hall yesterday at a thanksgiving for the end of the war in Europe. Pages 1 and 12-16

OPINION

Victory to defeat: The plotting among Tory MPs has barely begun. Meanwhile, this weekend, they will have to endure the wrath of their local parties **Page 21**

Kenneth the brave: Clarke's courage has sometimes seemed akin to the lemming's. Yesterday the value of his well-known robustness was revealed **Page 21**

Bishops and bad ears: VE-Day was a triumph for the ordinary men and women who had the lion's heart, as well as of the great ones who gave the roar **Page 21**

THE PAPERS

This country is lifting itself back into the first division. If it can be achieved, how great the prize — *Evening Standard*

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: A 38 per cent turnout is a democratic outrage, half the European average in subnational elections. A normal government would worry about this **Page 20**

Peter Riddell: Many traditional Tory supporters may have stayed at home and will return to the fold at the general election. But many may not, and some have already switched to Labour .. **Page 10**

OBITUARIES

Sir Alastair Pilkington, inventor; **Samuel Gorley Putt**, Warden of Harkness House; **Professor Leslie Pyrah**, urologist; **Rev Robert Leaney**, biblical scholar **Page 23**

LETTERS

Mortgages **Page 21**

BUSINESS

Economy: Kenneth Clarke said that slowing economic growth and the lack of new inflationary pressures had tipped a decision in favour of leaving interest rates unchanged **Page 25**

Executive pay: Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive at Kingfisher has surrended his membership of the £1 million salary club **Page 25**

Ratners: Shareholders of Signet, the former Ratners jewellery chain, supported the management and overwhelmingly rejected a break-up plan **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 12.6 to 3251.7. Sterling's index fell from 84.4 to 83.6 after a fall from $1.6178 to $1.6009 and from DM2.2164 to DM2.1940 **Page 28**

SPORT

Rugby union: John Hall, the Bath captain, withdrew from the Pilkington Cup final against Wasps today because of a shoulder injury. It would have been his last match **Pages 40, 48**

Cricket: Mark Ramprakash and John Carr shared a third-wicket partnership of 253 for Middlesex against Hampshire at Lord's **Page 48**

Racing: An historic weekend, the first in Britain to have Sunday race meetings with on-course betting, could be capped by a win for Celtic Swing in the 2,000 Guineas. **Pages 41, 42, 43, 48**

TRAVEL

VW-Day: How British officers saved the Beetle: a rural ride through England

SATURDAY TIMES MAGAZINE



Whose victory? Within just months joy turned to anxiety: William Rees-Mogg... **Page 8**
Boxing clever: Rene Benfield challenges the heavyweight view of feminism **Page 16**
Rebel for all seasons: The lasting influence of Thomas Paine **Page 25**
Fashion: Iain R. Webb on dressing up for the latest dance craze **Page 38**
Royal beds: William III's garden at Hampton Court is being restored to its baroque glory **Page 30**
House style Photographs are hanging on every fashionable wall **Page 43**
Food & drink: Jonathan Meades, Frances Bissell, and Jane MacQuitty **Pages 47-53**

WEEKEND



How to spot a fake: Michael Hall offers a guide to sorting genuine antiques from contemporary articles. **Pages 1, 3**
Cry of the lonely: Benedict Nightingale applauds *Skylight*, David Hare's strong new drama **Page 5**
Wild and wacky: Richard Morrison on the wackiest entertainments **Page 5**
Grottoes: How the modern cave man gives gardens an attractive highlight **Page 8**
Book awards: Judges and authors assess the runners in year's AT&T non-fiction book award . **Pages 13, 14**
Travel: Follow the Silk Route: pitch a tent near Pisa: dive off the Great Barrier Reef **Pages 20-23**

VISION



Glamrock: A night of glittering stars on Channel 4 **Page 2**
Films: Best of the Bank Holiday movies **Page 4**
Victory: VE-Day takes over Radio 4 **Page 20**
Science: Retired scientists visit their shrine **Page 3**

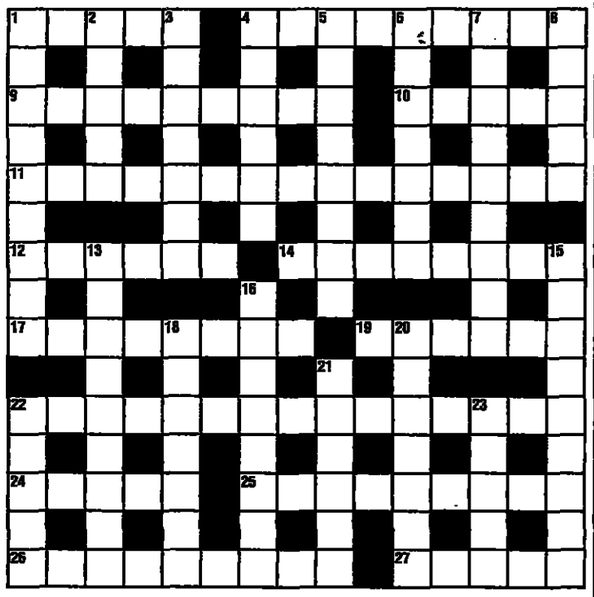
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,848

KNOCKANDO
PURE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

.....



ACROSS

1 Hesitate to swindle and rook (5).
4 Takes off dress first — original costume (3,6).
9 Drunken sailormen put back on even keel (9).
10 Don't allow little woman an instrument to play (5).
11 Behaving like a dummy, revealing plan (7,4,4).
12 Artist reached around one (6).
14 Crustacean from end of jetty returned if caught by accident (8).
17 Player I spotted in the bridge section (8).
19 One of our houses isn't finished, as usual (6).
22 Individuals possess this personal attribute (7,8).
24 It's a dreadful feeling, being held by gangsters (5).
25 Reckless type's crazy speed, with road needing repair (9).
26 Corruption of street cop revealed to very few (3,6).
27 Gentleman in India returned book one owns (5).

DOWN

1 Part of rifle deer spot (9).
2 Side of sovereign we see when royal head goes down (5).
3 Practical person spotting article in catalogue again (7).
4 From the air, a feature on the Surrey border (6).
5 Leaves railway after novelist (8).
6 My base's relocated in government office (7).
7 Destructive behaviour in museum leaves it somewhat messy, initially (9).
8 Weapon reached a great height, we hear (5).
13 Making accessible an opportunity at the top (7,2).
15 A sweet store to produce cavities? (9).
16 List of names including St. John's, St. Catherine's, and Clare, possibly (8).
18 Fool will, we hear, talk so childishly (7).
20 Poet's work interrupted by king, and later by ambassador (7).
21 Professional model German cheers! (6).
22 Found something deviously hidden (5).
23 Get in touch with a head after end of summer (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,842

S	U	P	E	R	B	■	P	I	P	E	R	A	C	K
■	P	S	A	E	■	Y	■	S	■	E	■	■	■	■
C	R	A	C	K	P	O	T	■	S	E	T	T	L	E
■	■	A	■	H	■	T	■	E	■	B	■	E	■	P
T	I	M	E	L	I	E	R	■	H	A	R	R	I	S
■	■	S	■	W	■	S	■	A	■	T	■	I	■	A
■	E	A	D	M	O	N	I	S	H	■	S	K	■	■
I	D	O	L	■	A	■	D	■	H	■	S	K	Y	E
M	■	R	■	P	L	E	T	H	O	R	A	■	O	■
I	■	D	■	I	■	H	■	V	■	S	■	U	■	■
T	R	I	S	T	E	■	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T
A	■	N	■	F	■	W	■	L	■	T	■	G	■	■
T	R	A	J	A	N	■	O	N	L	O	O	K	E	R
O	■	L	■	L	■	E	■	O	■	S	■	■	■	■
R	O	S	E	L	E	A	F	■	R	E	L	A	T	E

Solution to Puzzle No 19,847

Y	A	C	H	T	S	M	A	N	■	W	I	S	E	R	
O	■	I	■	R	■	E	■	U	■	O	■	H	■	E	
D	I	S	C	A	R	D	■	B	O	O	Z	E	U	P	
E	■	T	■	N	■	I	■	E	■	L	■	R	■	■	
L	E	E	D	S	■	C	I	G	A	R	E	T	T	E	
■	■	■	R	■	L	■	I	■	R	■	E	■	S	■	
H	E	N	■	A	N	N	I	E	■	L	A	U	R	I	E
O	■	T	■	E	■	N	■	N	■	■	■	■	■	■	
P	O	C	K	E	T	M	O	N	E	Y	■	F	I	T	
S	■	A	■	G	■	A	■	I	■	■	■	■	■	■	
C	O	N	T	A	I	N	E	R	■	M	O	G	U	L	
O	■	V	■	P	■	■	O	■	H	■	A	■	■	■	
T	R	A	M	P	L	E	■	C	O	U	N	T	E	R	
C	■	S	■	L	■	E	■	N	■	E	■	V	■	■	
H	A	S	T	E	■	M	O	R	A	T	O	R	I	A	

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *J M Benn, Blackheath, London; D R Flood, Shrewton, Wiltshire; J Kirkham, Liverpool; I W Thomson, Dunblane, Perthshire; P H Milton, Ludlow, Shropshire.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.24 am	8.31 pm
Moon sets	**Moon rises**
1.11 am	10.43 am

First quarter tomorrow

London 8.31 pm to 5.23 am
Bristol 8.41 pm to 5.33 am
Edinburgh 8.01 pm to 5.17 am
Manchester 8.47 pm to 5.24 am
Penzance 8.48 pm to 5.49 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.23 am	8.33 pm
Moon sets	**Moon rises**
1.42 am	11.47 pm

First quarter today

London 8.33 pm to 5.21 am
Bristol 8.42 pm to 5.31 am
Edinburgh 9.03 pm to 5.15 am
Manchester 8.49 pm to 5.22 am
Penzance 8.50 pm to 5.47 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:27	6.28	5.39	6.19
Aberdeen	5.08	3.53	5.43	3.40
Avonmouth	10.38	10.70	10.52	10.72
Belfast	2.49	3.35	3.17	2.99
Cardiff	10.23	10.22	10.38	10.31
Devonport	9.20	4.49	9.37	4.64
Dover	2.21	5.73	2.56	5.57
Dublin	3.29	3.54	4.02	3.35
Falmouth	8.40	4.03	9.05	4.25
Glasgow	4.39	4.36	5.07	3.81
Harwich	3.16	3.54	3.26	3.47
Holyhead	1.51	4.78	2.26	4.49
Hull	9.48	6.33	10.25	5.97
Ilfracombe	9.35	7.28	9.51	7.31
King's Lynn	9.59	5.40	10.25	5.16
Leith	6.22	4.64	6.58	4.52
Liverpool	2.37	7.99	3.08	7.76
Lowestoft	1.24	2.12	1.22	2.16
Margate	3.23	4.17	3.36	4.18
Milford Haven	9.54	5.53	10.14	5.57
Newquay	8.54	5.30	9.19	5.29
Oban	9.24	3.04	9.32	3.20
Penzance	8.26	4.45	8.49	4.50
Portland	10.01	1.43	10.04	1.53
Portsmouth	2.44	4.15	3.20	4.13
Shoreham	2.22	5.25	2.56	5.16
Southampton	2.21	3.88	2.55	4.02
Swansea	9.55	7.69	10.16	7.67
Tees	7.33	4.60	8.07	4.40
Wilton-on-Nze	3.11	3.78	3.24	3.78

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Northolt, west London, 27C (81F); lowest day max: Symburgh, Shetland, 12C (53F); highest rainfall: Stornoway, Western Isles, 0.02in; highest sunshine: Bournemouth and Poole, Dorset, 14.2hr

FORECAST

☐ **General situation:** much of England and Wales will have another hot, dry and fairly sunny day. Northern counties will be a little cloudier and there is a chance of a scattered shower during the afternoon.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will also have some sunshine, but thicker cloud over western Scotland and Northern Ireland during the afternoon will lead to drizzle or scattered showers, some heavy and persistent. Temperatures will remain very warm over southern areas but again it will be cooler further north.

☐ **London, Central S, SE England, E Anglia, E, W Midlands:** dry with hazy sunshine. Wind light and variable. Max 28C (82F).

☐ **Central N, NE, NW, E England, Lake District:** mainly dry with sunny intervals. Wind light and variable. Max 22C (72F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, Wales:** dry and clear with sunny spells. Wind light and variable. Max 24C (75F).

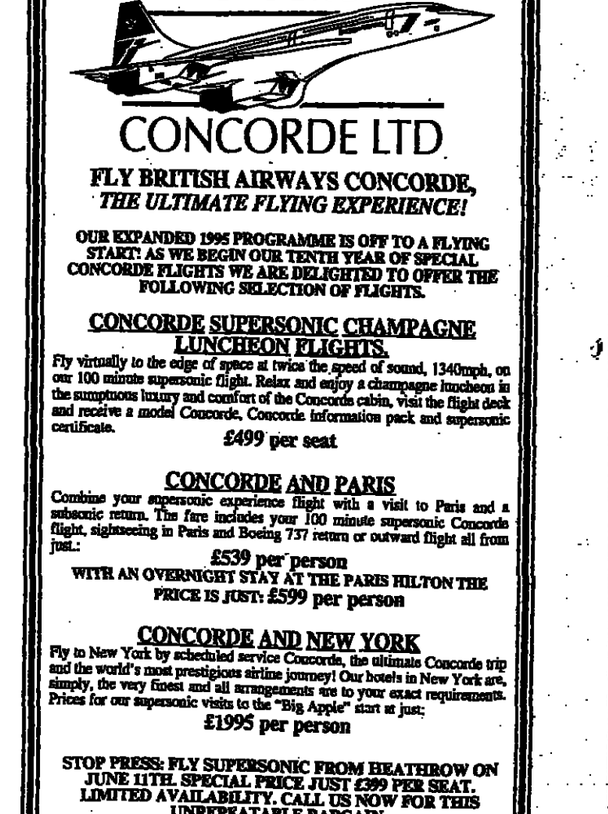
☐ **Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** sunny intervals, becoming cloudy, possible rain later. Wind southeast light to moderate. Max 19C (68F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** dry and clear with sunny intervals. Wind east to southeast light. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mainly dry with sunny intervals, cloudy later. Wind southwest moderate. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Outlook:** the hot spell should cool as thundery showers cross the country tomorrow. Monday will be fresher and cooler nearly everywhere with sunshine and showers.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in		Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	9.0	-		24	75	s
Anglesey	12.4	-		18	64	s
Aspatria	11.7	-		21	70	s
Aviemore	8.9	-		21	70	s
Belfast	10.2	-		21	70	s
Birmingham	12.6	-		25	77	s
Bognor R	13.7	-		22	72	s
Bournem'th	14.2	-		22	72	s
Bristol	13.5	-		26	79	s
Buxton	12.1	-		24	75	s
Cardiff	13.7	-		23	73	s
Clacton	13.2	-		18	64	s
Cleethorpes	x					
Colwyn Bay	12.4	-		20	68	s
Cromer	12.4	-		24	75	s
Doncaster	11.1	-		26	79	s
Eastbourne	13.6	-		20	68	s
Edinburgh	8.1	-		24	75	s
Eskdalemuir	10.4	-		20	68	s
Exmouth	13.5	-		19	66	s
Fishguard	13.0	-		21	70	s
Folkestone	13.3	-		23	73	s
Glasgow	8.0	-		21	70	s
Guernsey	13.2	-		23	73	s
Hastings	12.9	-		23	73	s
Hayling I.	13.5	-		19	66	s
Heme Bay	12.6	-		22	72	s
Hove	11.1	-		19	66	s
Hunstanton	12.2	-		22	72	s
Ilfracombe	9.4	-		22	72	s
Isle of Man	12.6	-		17	63	s
Jersey	13.4	-		25	77	s
Kinloss	6.7	-		21	70	s
Leeds	11.7	-		27	81	s
Lerwick	1.8	-		15	59	c
Lauchars	9.6	-		24	75	s

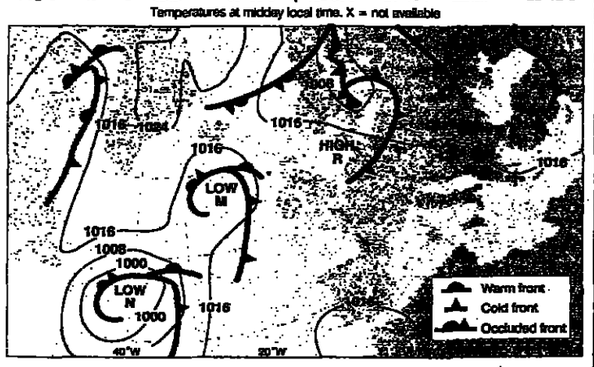
	Sun hrs	Rain in		Max C	Max F	
Littlehmptn	13.5	-		23	73	s
Liverpool	12.5	-		24	75	s
London	12.8	-		27	81	s
Manchester	11.3	-		25	77	s
Margate	12.4	-		22	72	s
Morecambe	12.3	-		19	66	s
Newcastle	9.5	-		25	77	s
Newquay	13.6	-		23	73	s
Norwich	12.4	-		25	77	s
Oxford	13.6	-		25	77	s
Penzance	11.1	-		19	66	s
Plymouth	13.2	-		22	72	s
Poole	14.2	-		24	75	s
Prestatyn	12.2	-		21	70	s
Ross-o-wye	12.6	-		26	79	s
Ryde	13.9	-		21	70	s
Salcombe	13.0	-		21	70	s
Sandown	13.6	-		19	66	s
Saunton Snd	12.4	-		26	79	s
Scarboro'	11.5	-		24	75	s
Shanklin	14.0	-		21	70	s
Shrewsbury	12.2	-		25	77	s
Skegness	12.4	-		17	63	s
Southend	11.5	-		23	73	s
Southport	12.4	-		22	72	s
Southsea	13.6	-		x	x	s
Stornoway	6.1	0.02		15	59	s
Swanage	13.6	-		19	66	s
Teignmouth	13.8	-		18	64	s
Tenby	13.3	-		19	66	s
Tiree	6.3	-		13	55	s
Torquay	13.2	-		19	66	s
Tynemouth	x	-		24	75	s
Ventnor	13.5	-		20	68	s
Weymouth	13.6	-		19	66	s

These are Thursday's figures

ABROAD

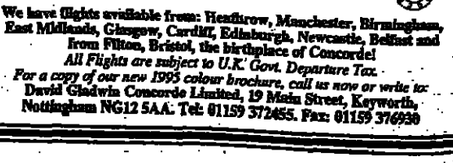
Ajaccio	19	66	s	C'phgn	19	66	s	Madrid	23	73	s	Riyadh	38	100	s
Alicetri	19	66	s	Corfu	19	66	s	Majorca	25	77	s	Rome	19	66	s
Alex'dria	22	72	s	Dublin	14	57	s	Malaga	20	68	f	Salzburg	22	72	s
Algiers	22	72	s	Dubrovnik	16	61	f	Malta	18	64	f	S F'risco	14	57	c
Amst'dm	24	75	c	Faro	21	70	f	Melb'rne	12	54	c	Santiago	18	64	s
Athens	19	66	c	Florence	24	75	s	Mexico C	24	75	s	S Paulo	27	81	s
Bahrain	33	91	s	Frankfurt	24	75	s	Miami	31	88	f	Seoul	18	64	s
Bangkok	27	81	c	Funchal	21	70	c	Milan	24	75	s	Sing'por	25	77	r
Barbados	31	88	f	Geneva	22	72	s	Montreal	20	68	s	St'kholm	17	63	f
Barcelona	21	70	s	Gibraltar	19	66	f	Moscow	11	52	c	Strasb'rg	25	77	s
Beirut	21	70	f	Helsinki	14	57	f	Munich	22	72	s	Sydney	14	57	c
Belgrade	18	64	f	Hong K	22	72	f	Nairobi	27	81	f	Tangier	22	72	f
Berlin	21	70	f	Innsbruck	21	70	s	Naples	22	72	s	Tel Aviv	22	72	f
Bermuda	21	70	f	Istanbul	14	57	f	N Delhi	37	99	s	Tenerife	25	77	s
Biarritz	27	81	s	Jeddah	33	91	s	N York	21	70	f	Tokyo	15	59	c
Borde'x	26	79	s	Jo'burg	19	66	f	Nice	20	68	s	Tunis	21	70	s
Brussels	25	77	s	Karachi	35	95	s	Oslo	15	59	c	Valencia	23	73	s
Budapest	17	63	f	L Palmas	22	72	s	Paris	27	81	s	Vanc'ver	12	54	s
B Aires	25	77	f	Le Tquet	24	75	s	Peking	30	86	s	Venice	23	73	s
Cairo	28	77	s	Lisbon	22	72	f	Perth	20	68	s	Vienna	19	66	s
Capo Tn	13	55	f	Locarno	24	75	s	Prague	18	64	s	Warsaw	16	61	c
Chicago	12	54	d	L Angels	16	61	f	Reykjavik	4	39	d	Wash'ton	20	68	f
Ch'church	11	52	-	Luxemb'g	24	75	s	Rhodes	19	66	s	Wel'ngton	17	63	c
Cologne	25	77	s	Luxor	30	86	s	Rio de J	24	75	f	Zurich	22	72	s

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: low M will move across Scotland and deepen; low N will drift slowly north and fill; high R will drift southeast into the Low Countries and decline

DAVID GLADWIN



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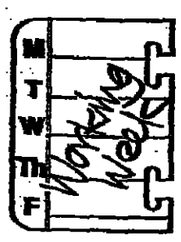
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WORKING WEEK 27

When N&P's chief stopped running and took the train



SPORT 40-48

Conner weathering another storm of controversy

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — SATURDAY MAY 6 1995

European Court delays appeal by Saunders

By Melvyn Marckus
City Editor

THE appeal by Ernest Saunders to the European Court of Human Rights over the Guinness affair has been delayed as a result of Government pressure on Strasbourg.

Inquiries by *The Times* reveal that the European Court, which was due to hear the case of Saunders v the United Kingdom later this month, has agreed to adjourn the case until February 1996.

The European Court's decision to delay its hearing, originally scheduled for May 23, reflects the Government's insistence that the appeal by the "Guinness Four", referred by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to the Court of Appeal last December, should be heard before Mr Saunders' separate appeal to the European Court.

Last September, the European Commission of Human Rights ruled, on the basis of 14 to 1, in favour of referring the case of Saunders v the UK to the Court of Human Rights.

In what was hailed as a major victory for Saunders, the Commission found that the use of incriminating evidence obtained from Saunders under the compulsory powers enjoyed by DTI inspectors was "oppressive" and "substantially impaired" Saunders' ability to defend himself against criminal charges. Saunders, according to the Commission, was thus "deprived of a fair hearing".

Although the European Court has bowed to the Government's pleas for an adjournment, it is understood to have stressed that the hearing of the "Guinness Four" before the Court of Appeal should take place in November, as indicated by the UK authorities.

The cases of Saunders, Guinness's former chairman, Gerald Ronson, founder of Heron, stockbroker Anthony Parnes and financier Jack Lyons were finally referred to the Appeal Court after claims that vital evidence, regarding indemnity arrangements, was withheld from the 113-day "Trial of the Century". In the event, Mr Saunders, Mr Ronson and Mr Parnes all served prison sentences. Mr Lyons was spared a 30-month jail sentence because of ill-health but was stripped of his knighthood in March 1991.

Mr Howard was widely criticised for taking almost two years to decide whether to take action. The application by lawyers acting for Mr Parnes dated back to January 1993. Lawyers acting for Mr Ronson acted shortly afterwards. Mr Howard only took action after legal proceedings demanding a judicial review were launched against him by Mishcon de Reya, acting on behalf of Mr Ronson.

The appeal will also raise the controversial matter of John Redwood's issue of a public interest immunity certificate in October 1989 that denied the defendants access to certain documents in the Government's possession. In view of the delays to date, Mr Saunders would clearly have preferred a swift hearing in Strasbourg.

Clarke opts to keep rates unchanged

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

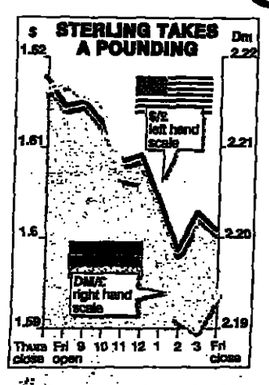
KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, said yesterday that slowing growth and the lack of new inflationary pressures had tipped a "finely balanced" decision in favour of leaving interest rates unchanged at 6.75 per cent.

In an unusually lengthy statement, Mr Clarke said there were "no signs of any demand pressures or any earnings pressures inside the economy" and that economic activity had started to slow to a more sustainable rate.

He said that he found last week's figures for economic growth in the first quarter of this year "puzzling". It was these figures showing a rise in gross domestic product of 0.8 per cent which convinced the financial markets that interest rates would go up yesterday.

The Chancellor said he had been very surprised with figures suggesting strong growth in services when other evidence pointed to the recovery being led by manufacturing industry. He also suggested that the effects of previous policy action — including interest rate rises in December and February and tax increases in April — were still working their way through and that he would wait and see what their impact on the economy will be.

Mr Clarke's evident belief that the recovery is weakening was backed up yesterday by figures showing a much lower than expected increase in consumer credit of £439 million in March. The City had been expecting credit to grow by around £550 million.



The Chancellor's opening statement at yesterday's press conference did not mention the recent weakness of sterling. Bank of England concerns about the potentially inflationary impact of a falling pound, revealed in the minutes of the March 8 meeting, had fuelled speculation that rates would be raised.

Answering questions, he said the pound's weakness had to be seen alongside slowing growth, the "very restrained level of demand" and highly competitive conditions which had forced firms to lower price expectations.

He said that Britain was obviously much nearer to the peak of the interest rate cycle and that if any more upward movements were to come "certainly there can't be many and they may not be as big as they have been in the past".

The Chancellor emphatically denied that his decision had been based on political considerations after the Tories' heavy defeat in Thursday's local elections. He said he had removed interest rate policy from the political context.

He stonewalled all questions about what advice he had received from the Bank of England but suspicions that it had counselled that rates should rise were rife in the City and knocked sterling, which dropped to a new low against a basket of currencies.

However, the stock market took the "no change" decision in its stride, closing only around 12 points lower. Gilts dipped on the news but derived strong support from the US Treasury bond market which leapt on evidence of a slowing recovery provided by falling US non-farm payrolls and higher unemployment.

British interest rate markets also reacted well. Interest rate futures actually rallied as markets built in lower interest rate forecasts, convinced by the Chancellor's comments about the peak of the cycle being near.

Thrills and spills, page 26

ROBIN MAYES



The Chancellor announced his decision yesterday

Mulcahy's pay falls below £1m

SIR Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive at Kingfisher, the bedraggled Woolworths to Comet group, has surrended his membership of the exclusive £1 million-a-year club.

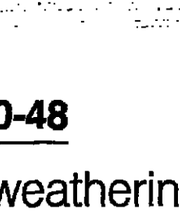
Sir Geoffrey saw his pay package fall 28 per cent from £1.3 million to £949,000 last year as his bonus slipped from £323,000 to £35,000. Part of the drop was because Sir Geoffrey, who was chairman until the start of the new year, waived his rights to receive a long-term bonus of £178,306. In the previous year, he received a long-term bonus of £105,000.

In March, Kingfisher revealed the first profit fall in its 13-year history with pre-tax profits down from £309.3 million to £244.2 million in the year to January 28. The company said it was this decline and the resulting share price fall that prompted Sir Geoffrey to forgo his right to a long-term bonus.

Kingfisher's annual accounts also confirm that the group paid £3 million in compensation to four ousted directors, including James Kerr-Jones, the finance director and Alan Smith, former chief executive.

The group yesterday named Tony Percival, 55, as Mr Kerr-Jones' replacement, with effect from June 1. Mr Percival, a former partner at Coopers & Lybrand, has been acting finance director since joining the group in February. The shares fell 3p to 407p.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3251.7	(–12.6)
Yield	4.20%	
FT-SE A All share	1596.73	(–4.65)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	4352.05	(–7.61)*
S&P Composite	520.85	(+0.31)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	6%*	(6%)
Long Bond	107²⁸/₃₂*	(105¹⁷/₃₂)
Yield	7.05%*	(7.17%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6¼%	(6⁹/₃₂%)
Ltfe long gilt future (Jun)	104¹¹/₃₂	(104²⁹/₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5985*	(1.6156)
London:		
$	1.5983	(1.6170)
DM	2.1830	(2.2155)
FFr	7.8250	(7.9510)
SFr	1.8093	(1.8264)
Yen	134.32	(135.25)
£ Index	83.6	(84.4)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.3721*	(1.3718)
FFr	4.8950*	(4.8950)
SFr	1.1320*	(1.1323)
Yen	84.05*	(83.92)
$ Index	87.5	(87.4)

Tokyo close Yen Closed

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jul).. $18.50 ($18.40)

GOLD

London close..... $389.75 ($390.65)

* denotes midday trading price

Insolvencies falling at a slower rate

By Our Economics Staff

THE number of company and individual insolvencies continued to fall in the first quarter of this year, according to the British Chambers of Commerce. The chambers expressed concern, however, over the slowing down in the fall.

In the first three months of 1995, 6,258 individuals were declared insolvent, 8 per cent down on the previous quarter and 21 per cent down on the first quarter of last year.

Similarly 3,534 companies were declared insolvent in the first quarter of 1995, 2 per cent down on the previous quarter and 21 per cent down on the same period a year ago.

In the year to March 1995, 1.7 per cent of active companies became insolvent, a marginal fall on the 1.8 per cent annual rate in the previous quarter.

Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The rate of reduction in the number of insolvencies is slowing down both for companies and individuals. However, it is encouraging to see that there is a drop of 22.5 per cent over the same quarter last year."

Heavy defeat for Signet sale plan

By Sarah Bagnall

SHAREHOLDERS of Signet, the former Ratners jewellery chain, yesterday supported the management and overwhelmingly rejected a break-up plan proposed by a group of rebel shareholders.

The rebel preference shareholders, led by Sass Lamle Rubin, a New York investment house, forced Signet to call yesterday's extraordinary meeting with a call to seek out purchasers for its constituent parts immediately. Signet runs H Samuel and Ernest Jones in the UK and Sterling in the US. The rebels said their plan would give ordinary shareholders 20p a share — a far cry from the 300p many paid for their holdings.

Of the votes cast — either by proxy or at yesterday's meeting — 72 per cent rejected the proposal. There was a strong turnout with only 30 per cent of votes not cast.

Jim McAdam, chairman, said the board opposed the rebels' plan because it was "commercially unsound and potentially damaging for the group".

Signet's shares rose ½p to 14p.

Sleep? We're too busy working

By Liz Dolan

THE bottom looks set to fall out of the bedsocks market, going by findings in a report published today. We will soon be spending so little time in our night attire that there will be no time for it to wear out. Midnight oil futures look a much better bet.

The survey, commissioned by First Direct, the telephone banking group, found that people with full-time jobs are working so hard nowadays that they actually sleep 25 minutes less a night than they did five years ago.

The average worker now sleeps just seven hours and 12 minutes, compared with seven hours and 36 minutes in 1990. At that rate, today's school leavers will be down to not much more than two hours a night by the time they reach retirement age.

"People get quite alarmed when they hear these sort of statistics," said Yvonne Harrison, research assistant at Loughborough University's sleep research unit. A research paper published in 1975 claimed the time that people slept each night had fallen by 1½ hours in the 50 years to 1960. "People got quite worried then too," said Ms Harrison, "but sleeping less isn't necessarily something to worry about. It depends how it's done."

In a recent study, Loughborough researchers found that, so long as the sleep time was reduced slowly and evenly over a long period, there were no real problems above 5½ or six hours a night. On Henley's findings for First Direct, that means we can stop worrying for at least another 15 years. The study, commissioned to look into time pressures on people in the 1990s, says that, as the working week shrinks in other parts of Europe, the British are working harder than ever. More than half the 1,960 people questioned said they spent more time at work now than five years ago. More than one in three worked more than 40 hours a week, even though only one in ten was actually contracted to do so. The rest were presumably driven by a mixture of necessity, dedication and sheer terror.

Although more and more women are joining the workforce, parents now spend more hours actively caring for their children than they did 20 or 30 years ago, the researchers say. Little wonder that the sleeping time has had to give.

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INTERNATIONAL GROWTH Mercury International Opportunities Fund	2nd	2nd
INTERNATIONAL FIXED INTEREST Mercury Global Bond Fund	1st	2nd*
COMMODITY & ENERGY Mercury Gold & General Fund	1st	1st

Source: Micropal. Based on offer to bid prices with net income reinvested to 1/5/95.

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Grumpy and the House of Warburg



MELVYN MARCKUS

The City remains Europe's pre-eminent financial centre but, as far as investment banking goes, it is set to become the undisputed playground of the US and European houses. The handing over of the keys of the House that Sir Siegmund Warburg built after the Second World War will, barring the emergence of a UK counter bidder, set the seal on such matters.

Comment on the affairs of Warburg is inevitably diverse, not least because the said House has once again been forced to effectively muzzle itself. Unmuzzled rivals enjoy varying perspectives: they would, wouldn't they? After all, post Big Bang, Warburg has knocked all-comers in the UK into an M&A and equity research-shaped cocked hat. Like it or not, Warburg is the premier home-grown franchise in the City. Sir David Scholey's unenviable task is to protect that franchise. Time is no longer on his side.

As *The Wall Street Journal* put it, in response to official confirmation that Swiss Bank Corporation is talking takeover with Warburg, excluding the 75 per cent stake in Mercury Asset Management, such a deal would represent "the most significant loss of independence by a UK financial firm to date".

For Scholey, who masterminded the integration of SG Warburg, Rowe & Pitman, Akroyd & Smithers and Mullens in the mid-Eighties, the passing of the keys to a relative pretender in UK corporate finance will prove a painful procedure. Swiss Bank's most recent claim to M&A fame related to clashes with the UK regulatory authorities over its derivative juggling in support of Trafalgar House's £1.2 billion abortive takeover bid for Northern Electric. Ironically, it was Swiss Bank that wailed the loudest when Enterprise, advised by Warburg in its ill-fated £1.5 billion Lasmo sortie, shelled out £160 million worth of cash for a 10 per cent stake, mostly in the direction of Phillips & Drew Fund Management. As it happens, PDFM is an offshoot of Union Bank of Switzerland, the tallest gnome that looks down on Credit Suisse.

SBC, stripped of its triple-A credit ratings by Moody's some years ago and by Standard & Poor's a matter of weeks ago, ranks a distant third. As advisers to Transmanche Link, constructors of the Channel Tunnel, SBC also clashed with Eurotunnel's advisers, one of which was Warburg. One way or another, SBC is perceived as a sort of Alpine version of Grumpy. Not that anyone called Snow White ever made much of a mark in the City.

That said, the nightmare scenario for Scholey is for SBC, like Morgan Stanley before it, to walk. Last week's defection of the quartet spearheading Warburg's European equities operation to Morgan Grenfell was a serious loss, as was the exit of the joint heads of equity capital markets, to the same house, in February. Morgan Grenfell, it will be recalled, was rescued from a barrel of Guinness by Deutsche Bank, now intent on procuring new talent. Sitting in the hot seat, Scholey would appreciate that the loss of two suitors would smack of more than carelessness. It can safely be assumed, therefore, that Warburg would not have requested shareholders to hold their breath for a second time unless SBC appeared distinctly hot to trot. Warburg's subsequent warning that profits for 1994-95 will be "very significantly" below market forecasts will have come as no surprise to SBC: petticoats have a way of being raised long before nuptials are announced.

SBC's due diligence, spearheaded by accountants Arthur Andersen, is well under way and word has it that takeover terms may be thrashed out by mid-week. All things being equal, Warburg might choose to bring forward its 1994-95 results, promised by May 25. The received wisdom is that Warburg's investment banking operations will be lucky to break even, the solitary cushion being a £90 million share of MAM's anticipated pre-tax profits of around £120 million.

As was all too apparent when Morgan Stanley arrived on the scene, Warburg has excelled in the UK but has failed to cut the mustard on Wall Street — jackpot territory for the premier league investment houses. Bearing in mind that Warburg has been working off a capital base of just £1.5 billion this is hardly surprising. But the inadequacy of Warburg's balance sheet was as apparent in the mid-Eighties as it is now. With the benefit of hindsight, management should have addressed the problem earlier or reigned in the firm's global ambitions. A low capital base and a high-cost base is a dangerous mix and, in the event, 15 months of turbulent financial markets have forced Warburg to put up the "for sale" sign. Grumpy, with shareholders funds of $1·4 billion, has come knocking at the door.

Retrenchment, in the wake of Morgan Stanley's reigning in of ambition, has been fast, furious and expensive. Warburg's decision to pull out of Eurobonds in January was followed by a cutback in derivatives operations and the firm's withdrawal from US domestic equities. Barings demise in February clearly took its toll at Warburgs which, along with several other City banks, has discovered that the winding down of derivative operations can prove a costly exercise. Nick Leeson's losses of around $1.3 billion remain something of a record but that is not to say that "error accounts" are soley the province of Barings' trading experience in derivatives.

It is too late, however, for Warburg to revert to a small-is-beautiful philosophy. Mercury Asset Management may harbour such a perspective but, once again, Warburg's management can be faulted for controlling 75 per cent of MAM's and acting as if it controls 25 per cent. In the event, MAM's management, which could have contributed more to the whole, was permitted to go native.

Scholey, who must be focussing on a take-out price of upwards of £800 million, can take comfort from the fact that UBS's acquisition of Phillips & Drew and Credit Suisse's joint venture with First Boston augur well for the proposed amalgam.

Less comfort can be taken from the fact that Warburg's costs have clearly escalated out of control. It is interesting to note that in 1993-94, when Warburg's pre-tax profits amounted to some £297 million, directors pay, including pension costs, soared from £5.6 million to £10.7 million. In 1993, the directors of ICI managed to get by with an overall figure, including pension costs, of £2.5 million.

Warburg and SBC discuss bid price and tax difficulties

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A FORMAL offer for SG Warburg's investment banking business is expected to come from Swiss Bank Corporation next week.

Legal and financial advisers for Warburg, Mercury Asset Management, its 75 per cent-owned fund manager, and SBC will spend the weekend locked in negotiations over the price and on finding a tax-efficient way of distributing Warburg's MAM shares to its shareholders.

Analysts are predicting that SBC is unlikely to pay much more than net asset value for the business, which values it at £750 million, or 340p a share. This would make it one of the cheapest acquisitions in merchant banking history, according to Chris Smith of James Capel, and "would attract other players in".

Anthony Davis, a tax partner at City solicitors Lovell White Durrant, said: "Warburg must be sitting on a massive capital gain in relation to its banking business and in its shares in MAM."

If Warburg were to do the simplest thing and sell the investment bank for cash and distribute the MAM shares to its shareholders, it would be liable for capital gains tax both on the cash it received and on the market value of the shares distributed.

Shareholders could also find themselves liable for tax on any cash dividend.

Mr Davis said: "The most likely scheme would involve a partitioning of the businesses in the course of a liquidation, with shares in the investment bank going to SBC and shares in MAM going to existing Warburg shareholders.

He added: "There are other routes they will have no doubt considered such as a statutory demerger."

Martin Cross, banking analyst with UBS, said he believed that if SBC paid book value for Warburg it would be paying too much. Warburg put out a profit warning on Wednesday, the day after it said it was in talks with SBC. Analysts expect a loss from its investment banking operations of between £80 million and £113 million.

Mr Cross said the investment banking business was not likely to turn around entirely in the current year. "They are destroying value," he said. He added that there could be some sort of special dividend paid by Warburg to SBC. "In acquisitions there are indemnities and clawbacks" he said.

He said that if the deal was at net asset value and if the 75 per cent stake in MAM was shared out at current prices, the deal would be worth 890p per share to Warburg shareholders.

NEWSTEAM



Ken Jackson announced a maintained total dividend

Hopkinsons falls into red

HOPKINSONS, the abrasives and engineering group, slipped into the red after substantial restructuring costs. The incurred losses of £153,000 before tax in the year to January 31 compared with a taxable profit of £654,000 in the previous 12 months.

Ken Jackson, chief executive, said that in spite of the fall into the red, the group is holding the total dividend payout at 1.3p on losses per share of 0.27p against earnings previously of 1.18p. A final dividend of 0.8p a share will be paid July 31.

O'Reilly buys 28% stake in NZ group

BY MARTIN BARROW

TONY O'Reilly, the Irish businessman, has further expanded his global media interests with the acquisition of a 28.3 per cent stake in the largest newspaper publisher in New Zealand.

Independent Newspapers, the Irish newspaper group where Mr O'Reilly is chairman, and Mr O'Reilly's family trust have jointly acquired the stake in Wilson & Horton from Brierley Investments for NZ$292.7 million (about £123 million).

The purchase will be funded by raising a mixture of non-recourse debt and vendor financing, with the balance being contributed by the shareholders.

W&H has a market value of NZ$930 million. Its flagship title, the *New Zealand Herald*, has a daily circulation of about 245,000 copies. The company also publishes eight provincial newspapers and a number of community newspapers.

Group profits in the year to the end of March are estimated at NZ$77.3 million, rising from a reported NZ$63.8 million in the previous 12 months. Yesterday, the company said a special dividend of NZ$1.50 a share will be paid on or before June 30.

Profits in the current year are forecast to rise to between NZ$100 million and NZ105 million.

Liam Healy, chief executive of Independent Newspapers, said: "Wilson & Horton has a strong market position, large and high-quality cash flow and is part of a stable and strong national economy." Mr Healy, who will be one of two nominees of Independent Newspapers to join the board of W&H, said significant growth in profits was anticipated.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Canadian airliner was seized legally

THE European Court of Human Rights yesterday ruled that there had been no breaches of human rights when British Customs and Excise Commissioners seized an Air Canada jet at Heathrow in 1987 after one of its containers was found to hold a staggering 331 kilograms of cannabis resin. No criminal charges have been brought as a result of the discovery, but on May 1 Customs officers seized the jet as liable to forfeiture under the Customs Act 1979 and returned it the same day to the airline after it stumped up £50,000.

Later that year, Air Canada challenged the assertion that the plane was liable to forfeiture. The airline won a High Court case challenging the decision but lost it on appeal. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused and Air Canada launched its case in Europe during 1991. The European Court of Human Rights said yesterday in its ruling: "Taking into account the large quantity of drugs found in the container, its street value, as well as the value of the aircraft, the requirement to pay £50,000 was not disproportionate to the aim of preventing the importation of prohibited drugs into the United Kingdom."

Du Pont to raise $1.1bn

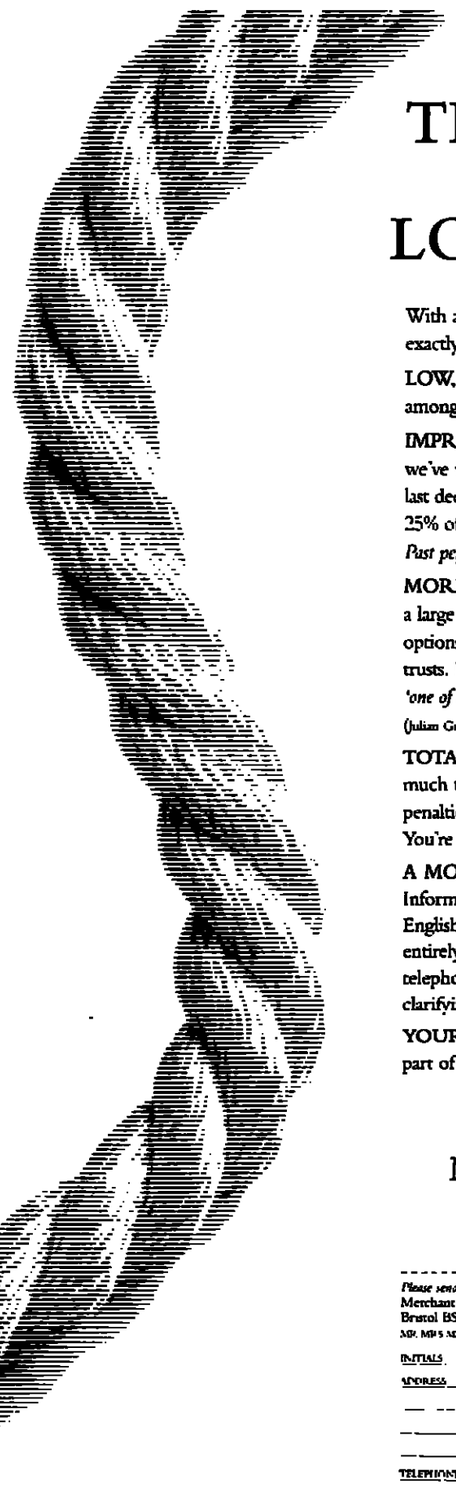
DU PONT, the US chemicals manufacturer, is to raise $1.114 billion through a share offer to repay short-term debt to redeem 156 million shares held by Seagram, the drinks group. Du Pont is offering 17 million ordinary shares at $65.50 a share through US and international public offerings co-ordinated by CS First Boston. In April Du Pont agreed to pay $10 billion to buy back a 24 per cent stake from Seagram, which wanted to raise money to acquire MCA, the Hollywood studio, from Japan's Matsushita.

Smurfit bid set to win

JEFFERSON SMURFIT'S £58 million bid for Papeteries du Limousin, the French papermaker, looked certain to succeed after Emin Leydier said it would not raise its rival offer. Ireland's Smurfit launched a Fr500 a share cash bid for Limousin on April 25, topping Emin Leydier's Fr450 bid. The French stock exchange has approved Smurfit's bid. Undertakings to accept the offer have been received in respect of 47 per cent of Limousin's share capital. Acceptances of more than 75 per cent are needed before it goes unconditional.

Grampian widens vote

GRAMPIAN TELEVISION, the independent television company that broadcasts in the north of Scotland, proposes to enfranchise the non-voting A shares. Holders of voting shares will receive a three for one offer to compensate for the dilution of voting rights. An extraordinary meeting after the annual meeting will be asked to approve the scheme. Grampian also announced the acquisition of Border Television's 37 per cent holding in Central Scotland Radio for £245,000. Grampian's A shares rose 9p to 315p.



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Thrills and spills of the Ken and Eddie Show

Janet Bush on the monthly meeting between Governor and Chancellor

THE Treasury and the Bank of England always knew that there were risks in establishing a more open way of making interest-rate policy.

The decision to publish full minutes of the monthly monetary meetings between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, at which monetary policy decisions are made, would put both under pressure to come up with the right judgments. For the first time, the Bank's advice to the Chancellor was made public, albeit six weeks after the event.

Both Chancellor and Governor would be exposed to public scrutiny of the quality of their arguments and judgment. That, they agreed, was a price worth paying because open debate would cut out some of the more excessive speculation about policy that has surrounded their relationship in the past.

The other unwelcome consequence of the new openness was the intense interest in the markets and media in the monthly gathering. It is certainly true that what is a fairly technical, serious discussion of economics between specialists has attracted enormous publicity; the press calls it "The Ken and Eddie Show".

One Treasury official said recently: "The over-analysis is a bit wearisome. Reporters have taken to door stepping the meetings. If they go on for an hour and five minutes, it is a bust up. If it goes on for 45 minutes, everything is sweetness and light."

The authorities were sufficiently concerned about such things that they had a long practice run. Chancellor and Governor met, minutes were written but not published. In April last year, Mr Clarke and Mr George held a joint press conference at the Treasury and published minutes for meetings already held in January, February and March.

The February meeting produced the first example of disagreement. Mr Clarke had wanted and got a rate cut, the Governor was opposed. The Treasury and the Bank wanted to see whether the market was likely to have been unsettled. They concluded that six weeks is a long time in the markets and the meeting was old news. They then made their new system public. Both Mr Clarke and Mr George committed themselves to a full and honest account of the meetings, to secure market trust in the process. There are two exceptions to this general approach. It was agreed that sterling and fiscal policy, acutely sensitive for the financial markets, could legitimately be left out of the minutes. The monthly monetary meeting is the culmination of a series of meetings. Clutches of specialists from Whitehall and Threadneedle Street meet well beforehand to swap notes on matters such as money supply movements.

Then, just a day or two before the main event, top officials from both institutions meet to finalise the views on each side. Sir Terence Burns, Permanent Secretary, leads the Treasury team, which also includes Alan Budd, head of macro-economics and Gus O'Donnell, who recently rejoined the Treasury after a stint as John Major's press secretary.

For the Bank, Rupert Pennant-Rea headed the team until he resigned as deputy-governor. Another regular is Mervyn King, head of economics at the Bank.

At the monetary meeting, all these officials and Treasury ministers Anthony Nelson and Jonathan Aitken gather in the Chancellor's room. Mr George reads from a prepared statement of the Bank's position, which ensures absolutely accurate minutes. Then the Chancellor replies with his position.

It is something of a curiosity that the Governor's remarks are always more lengthy than the Chancellor's, given that Mr Clarke makes the ultimate decision on interest rates.

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	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.28	2.11
Austria Sch	16.82	15.12
Belgium Fr	48.76	44.46
Canada $	2.300	2.140
Cyprus CypE	0.748	0.693
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mkk	7.40	6.75
France Fr	8.35	7.70
Germany Dm	2.37	2.19
Greece Dr	378.00	354.00
Hong Kong $	13.11	12.11
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel	5.2968	4.5368
Italy Lira	2755.00	2600.00
Japan Yen	150.00	134.00
Malta	0.600	0.545
Netherlds Gld	2.639	2.409
Norway Kr	10.59	9.79
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.43
Spain Pta	204.00	191.00
Sweden Kr	12.28	11.48
Switzerland Fr	1.86	1.78
Turkey Lira	rater	66128.0
USA $	1.710	1.580

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: ALASTAIR LYONS

Unwanted stress that could be habit-forming

Jon Ashworth charts the hectic schedule of the head of N&P as he fends off Abbey's unwanted advances


ALAN WELLER

Boardroom blitz: Alastair Lyons's life has been a whirl of activity since Abbey National announced that it had designs on the N&P

Working Week

DURING the winter, Alastair Lyons rises each morning at 5.30, mucks out the stables, and sets off on a three-mile run, before speeding off in his Range Rover to his desk at the National & Provincial Building Society. In the summer, he does a five-mile cycle ride instead. He has time to savour the glory of life on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors.

But not this week. The past five days have left little time for running, cycling, or even the 40 lengths he used to swim each morning in his days with the Asda stores group. Since Sunday, N&P's chief executive has spent 14 hours on trains and more than ten hours on the road, his mind filled with the image of a trim, balding man who could pass for Marlon Brando in *Apocalypse Now*, with a twist of the imagination. For Peter Birch of the Abbey National has pushed Lyons to the brink of a dark, gaping precipice. "The horror!" one hears him rasp. "The horror!"

From the moment Abbey National let the world know that it was interested in Britain's ninth biggest building society, Lyons's life has been a whirl of activity. "The week for me started actually on Sunday," says Lyons, 41, leaning across the polished boardroom table at the offices of his City PR advisers. "I beetled down on the seven o'clock flight from Leeds, got stuck in the normal jam coming into town, and that kicked me off, really, for Monday morning."

Then came *that* meeting. Birch had agreed to meet Lyons at a West End hotel, a venue cloaked in mystery. Lyons will not identify it, presumably fearing the hordes of N&P savers who may turn up brandishing their account books and demanding the £650 that the Abbey deal would bring them.

Lyons describes the meeting as "amicable", although one wonders. ... Was he not a little put out by the manner in which Birch had trumpeted his intentions? "I said to him I was surprised by the fact that he felt the need to make a public announcement about a meeting which we had set up anyway," says Lyons. "The building society sector is in a state of quite significant development, and everybody in financial services is talking to everybody else."

He chooses his words carefully, but his irritation with Birch is plain. "I was a little surprised in how little his ideas were formulated, or at least how little he wanted to tell me. I said to him, clearly now it's come into the public domain, it's quite important that we seek to minimise this period of uncertainty which is hanging over our business."

Lyons told Birch to go away and do his homework. "I said I need to have a proposal, if he wants to make a proposal, with specifics. I need to understand his view of the value of the business, I need to understand his view of what Abbey would do with the business."

The geographical case for a merger appears beyond dispute. Abbey is strongest in the south of England, while N&P has a natural skew towards Yorkshire and the North. Lyons concedes the point. "Clearly there is an obvious logic, and he took me through how he saw the fit for Abbey. And of course I said, one can see the logic of the fit for Abbey, what I want to see, in the business case is, what's the value for N&P?" The meeting over, Lyons embarked on a frantic round of briefings with journalists and advisers. Having returned to Yorkshire on Monday night, he was up at 5.30 the following morning to begin a pattern that was to repeat itself for the next three days. He left home at 6am on the hour-long drive to York, caught the 7am InterCity to King's Cross, and was in the City by 9.30am, ready to face the music. He headed north again on the 6pm train, and was home by 8.45pm, ready to brief his colleagues.

> One can see the logic of the fit for Abbey, but what I want to see is what's the value for N&P?

One of the more farcical elements of the great N&P stand-off has been Lyons's late-night chats with Lord Shuttleworth, his chairman, who is currently on a walking holiday in northwest Scotland. "We've had some quite interesting telephone calls, with his dashing to the top of a hill trying to get his mobile phone to work."

Friday found Lyons at his desk in Bradford, fielding an ever-growing number of calls — all thanks to Birch, of course. "Since his loud broadcast last week, as you might imagine, the phone has been relatively busy." The Alliance & Leicester, the Nationwide and the Woolwich building societies are all said to be interested.

Lyons spends much of the interview talking about N&P's devotion to its three million customers, and stressing that he will not be rushed into anything. "What we're looking at is a medium-term strategic move for the society," he says. "We recognise that you need to be receptive to change in an environment that is rapidly changing, and we're quite prepared to consider those types of changes."

Customers hoping for their bonus cheques will have to wait until at least the end of May, and probably longer. "At the moment I don't know how long [the process] is going to take. It depends on the number of proposals we get, the depth they go into, the clarity. But the one thing which we're certain is that we will determine the timetable."

One detects the air of a man who has been caught on the hop and is doing his best to turn the situation to his advantage. "There's a smokescreen, I think, which is that a board is going to sit down and reject something out of hand, with its head stuck in the sand and not looking up to reality," he says. "Our decision will be, when it's made, fully thought through, fully supported, and able to withstand the full glare of public scrutiny."

Home is a welcome retreat. Lyons and his wife, Shauneen, keep three horses on their 20-acre estate near Fountains Abbey, home to Edward, 12, Jane, 11, and two-year-old Tabatha. When he was 13, Lyons was thrown from his mount into a hedge, and did not get back in the saddle for 20 years. He did not learn to ride a bicycle until he was 34.

He is not a local, growing up near Reigate in Surrey, then moving to the Welsh-Shropshire borders, where he spent nine years with HP Bulmer, the cider maker. He was finance director of Asda Stores, based in Leeds, from 1989 to 1991, then switched to N&P, stepping into the post of chief executive last September, after David O'Brien's untimely departure.

Now, N&P is "in play", with the predators circling overhead, and Lyons remains defiant. "This isn't the starting gun being fired by Abbey National," he says. "We've been working through what's the right strategic move to make for some months now. We're better advanced in our discussions with some parties than others, but I have no view at the moment as to which way it will fall. I could well, I imagine, be spending my days on the phone quite a lot over the next couple of weeks."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Art for the privileged few

Colin Campbell takes a stroll through a very high-security corporate art gallery

De Beers's London office at 17 Charterhouse Street is the second most secure building in London after the Bank of Engand. But the headquarters of the international diamond company has walls that groan with treasures of more than just carbon.

Among them, one shines supreme — the 273.85-carat Centenary diamond. A stone of such beauty and brilliance that it throws off 1,001 rainbows from 247 individual facets and is only ever handled with gloves.

It is insured for $100 million, is the third largest polished diamond in the world, outside the Crown Jewels, but is an asset which few are privileged to see — and then only at a distance.

However, if Centenary is an asset upon which few may gaze, 17 Charterhouse Street is more than just diamonds. It is the home of hundreds of visible assets — De Beers's extensive contemporary art collection.

The walls, even in the lavatories, teem with works. They are essentially contemporary, and mainly British, but there is strong representation from Australia, America, India, Israel, South Africa and Mexico.

The art ranges from a tapestry of the Namibian desert designed by Maud Sumner which hangs in the entrance foyer, to an original engraving aquatint by Picasso which hangs outside the boardroom. The corporate collection includes oils on canvas, acrylics on cardboard, and a fine sideboard in fruit cherry wood with brown oak inlays.

The idea of collecting contemporary art was conceived by De Beers's Central Selling Organisation, and born from a passion for art which both Teddie Dawe, former director, and Anthony Oppenheimer, president of the CSO and cousin of Nicky Oppenheimer, CSO chairman, share.

The original idea was to enhance the Charterhouse Street building. The first purchases were made for the CSO by Pauline Vogelpoel of the Contemporary Art Society (CAS). Today, there is hardly an art gallery in Britain and probably hardly an art loving company, that does not owe some of its most important 20th-Century possessions to the CAS.

Sophie Oppenheimer, 29, daughter of Anthony, currently oversees the collection that stretches along endless corridors and spills over to the adjoining London office building of Anglo American Corporation. Anglo has its own walls of art, but as the office of its chairman testifies, group patronage knows no boundaries. In April 1993, when Anglo's office at No 19 was officially opened by Julian Ogilvie Thompson, he found in his office works that had been given by De Beers and Minorco (of which he is also chairman) and by the CSO. "There is no special budget, and several works of art have been given by CSO clients," she said.

Prominent among "given" works is Patrick Caulfield's *Engagement Ring* (122 x 122 cm, oil on hardboard) which, aptly, hangs outside the rooms in which diamond dealers examine their "box" of rough stones at the sights that are held ten times a year. This particular work is often on loan, and was seen at the Pop Art Show held in 1991 at the Royal Academy.

There is a Graham Sutherland watercolour on one wall, a Henry Moore here, a Picasso there, Edward Burra, a Howard Hodgkin, which is painted on a mirror, works by Peter Lanyon, and a set of prints by David Hockney.

De Beers's patronage of the arts is ongoing. Under commission is a Bill Jacklin tapestry depicting the Sheep Meadow in Central Park, New York. Diamonds may well be romantic, but you can only gaze on them for so long. In contrast, time taken in absorbing CSO's collection of real art is time well spent.



Sophie Oppenheimer with Tom Phillips's plaster and acrylic *9 Conjectured Flags*

"The Golden Touch"

from DVLA Classic Collection Auction at the International Centre, Harrogate on 12th and 13th June 1995

DVLA CLASSIC COLLECTION

14 A	1 BRJ	C1 ARA	1 EF	40 G	4 HL	9 JV	12 MA	19 NP	2 PJS	2 SD	2 TW
15 AA	2 BS	C1 EAN	18 EG	15 GA	12 HM	8 JW	999 MAC	12 NR	1955 PM	SDS 1	2 TX
17 AB	1 BSB	C1 ERK	8 EH	GAL 1A	6 HN	4 JX	3 MAG	14 NS	3 PM	2 SE	3 TY
ABS 2	1 BSG	C1 HAN	12 EJ	1 GAS	11 HO	15 JY	27 MAY	8 NT	4 PMS	1 SED	11 UC
5 AC	9 BT	C1 OCK	8 EK	14 GB	1 HOY	11 KA	16 MB	1 NU	7 PN	12 SEE	2 UD
8 AD	8 BV	C1 OGS	8 EL	12 GC	15 HR	11 KAS	3 MC	8 NX	PPS 1	SEK 1	11 UE
2 ADB	13 BW	8 DA	16 EM	14 GD	8 HS	KAV 1N	2 MCD	4 NY	4 PR	SEM 1	4 UF
20 AE	1 BWS	DAN 1L	1 EN	GDS 1	16 HT	30 KAY	1 MCH	N1 BLO	14 PS	8 SG	5 UJ
18 AF	3 BX	1 DAP	9 EO	15 GE	3 HU	4 KE	8 MD	N1 CHO	PSB 1	SGL 1	3 UK
8 AG	B1 ANE	DAV 1A	8 EP	GEM 4	7 HV	13 KEN	2 MDC	N1 CKL	1 PU	SGM 1	9 US
17 AJ	B1 ARE	21 DAV	2 ER	10 GF	18 HW	14 KG	1 MDD	N1 COU	2 PUB	2 SH	11 UU
2 AJL	B1 ASE	14 DB	5 ERN	17 GG	7 HY	KHB 1	6 ME	N1 DAL	1 PUG	1 SHM	7 UX
12 AK	B1 END	1 DBW	19 ES	19 GH	9 J	2 KJ	MED 1X	N1 DDS	3 PW	1 SJ	9 V
30 AL	B1 ESS	9 DC	1 ESD	9 GJ	111 JA	20 KK	MEK 1	N1 ELD	3 RA	SJE 1	3 VB
ALS 1	B1 GUM	7 DD	1 ESK	20 GK	3 JAG	3 KL	100 MEL	N1 ETO	6 RAB	1 SJS	880 VDU
83 AM	B1 JOY	20 DE	ESM 1N	12 GL	JAM 1R	8 KN	3 MF	N1 GHT	25 RAJ	1 SK	6 VE
11 AN	B1 NAL	11 DEB	3 ET	18 GM	111 JAN	17 KS	9 MG	N1 HAT	RAM 1L	SKE 1N	8 VG
1 ANB	B1 OLA	21 DEC	ETH 1C	16 GN	JAN 1C	KSS 1	4 MH	N1 JAR	RAS 1B	3 SL	11 VH
11 ANE	B1 RAN	DEN 1A	4 EU	10 GO	JAS 2	19 KT	19 MJ	N1 LAN	12 RB	SLS 1	3 VJ
5 ANJ	B1 UNT	DEW 1E	20 EW					N1 LES	14 RC	6 SN	2 VK
11 ANS	B10 OMS	2 DEX	2 EX					N1 RAJ	RCC 1	1 SNL	2 VL
8 ANT	15 C	5 DF	7 EY					N1 SAR	1 RCL	2 SO	3 VM
1 AO	16 CA	11 DG	E1 DTH					N1 SHA	6 RD	SON 1X	11 VN
2 AP	CAH 1R	1 DGL	E1 LEN					N1 TAS	1 RDP	9 SP	7 VO
APS 7	CAS 2	1 DGS	E1 MAS					N1 XSN	2 RE	1 SPR	4 VR
9 AR	111 CB	3 DH	9 FA					5 OA	REC 1	5 SR	8 VS
17 AS	77 CC	1 DHF	1 FAH					20 OB	REL 1C	2 SS	20 VV
ASH 1A	999 CCC	4 DJ	FAK 1R	14 GP	9 JB	11 L	1 MJC	2 OC	REM 2	SSS 2	5 VW
ASH 1F	7 CD	1 DJC	FAR 1A	20 GR	JBS 2	18 LA	11 MK	7 OD	1 REN	1 SSY	3 VX
ASK 1R	1 CDG	1 DJM	FAS 2	1 GRD	13 JC	1 LAP	2 MLT	5 OE	1 RER	2 ST	7 WA
2 AT	12 CE	7 DK	11 FB	9 GS	10 JCB	1 LAT	20 MO	6 OF	REX 1	5 SU	WAL 4D
ATT 1A	1 CEB	16 DL	8 FC	GSL 1	17 JD	6 LAW	MOR 1A	6 OG	2 RF	14 SUE	WC 2
10 AV	CEL 1N	2 DLS	5 FD	11 GT	JDS 4	14 LB	17 MR	10 OH	3 RG	2 SW	8 WD
2 AW	11 CF	8 DM	10 FE	11 GV	12 JE	4 LC	12 MS	5 OJ	RGM 1	4 SX	12 WG
11 AX	999 CFB	6 DN	16 FEB	15 GW	111 JEF	15 LD	MSS 1	20 OK	2 RJ	24 T	1 WGM
1 AY	15 CG	8 DO	1 FED	4 GX	JEM 1M	LDS 1	1 MSU	7 OL	RJK 1	6 TA	2 WH
AYD 1N	2 CGS	14 DR	3 FF	8 GY	JEM 2	14 LE	MSW 2	10 OM	RJM 2	2 TAM	WJS 1
111 B	18 CH	10 DS	8 FH	G1 ANO	2S JEN	6 LEE	4 MU	5 ON	RJS 2	2 TAP	2 WL
15 BA	19 CJ	1 DSB	20 FJ	G1 ASH	5 JET	11 LEO	11 MX	1 ONE	RLS 2	3 TB	18 WM
BAB 1R	1 CJC	4 DT	8 FK	G1 ENS	15 JF	18 LF	M1 CKO	8 OP	5 RM	20 TC	7 WN
BAB 1T	12 CK	11 DU	12 FL	G1 NET	1 JFD	LFT 1	M1 DAS	16 OR	5 RN	TDS 1	3 WO
BAT 1A	13 CL	9 DV	FLA 1L	G1 OVE	12 JJ	1 LGH	M1 LER	3 OS	3 RO	TEB 2	1 WOW
5 BB	CLS 1	2 DW	FLU 1D	7 H	1 JJD	18 LH	M1 LUV	OSS 1	111 ROG	TEF 1	10 WP
15 BC	18 CM	1 DY	8 FM	6 HA	15 JK	2 LK	M1 MMS	14 OT	ROS 1N	2 TG	2 WR
111 BD	12 CN	D1 ANN	5 FN	1 HAK	3 JL	75 LL	M1 NOR	10 OU	2 ROY	6 TH	5 WS
1 BDR	5 CO	D1 LEK	5 FO	2 HAN	8 JM	18 LM	8 N	3 OV	13 RP	THB 1	WSB 1
14 BE	COR 1S	D1 NTA	FOL 10S	1 HAP	7 JN	9 LN	7 NA	1 OVE	5 RR	3 TK	15 WT
BEK 1R	COV 1S	D1 ONE	5 FP	HAS 2	10 JO	1 LO	NAJ 1A	7 OW	8 RS	TKS 1	4 WV
9 BEN	20 CP	D1 PAC	15 FR	1 HAY	JON 1S	LOW 1S	4 NB	6 OX	1 RSB	9 TL	21 X
BER 1T	6 CR	D1 PEN	18 FT	8 HB	1 JOS	18 LP	3 NC	11 OY	RSJ 2	14 TM	3 XA
18 BG	1 CRN	D1 RAJ	9 FV	4 HC	20 JOY	15 LR	14 ND	944 P	RSL 2	5 TN	4 XB
7 BH	7 CS	D1 VAD	111 FW	9 HD	14 JP	8 LS	NDS 1	15 PA	RSS 1	70 TO	11 XH
50 BJ	1 CSS	D1 WAN	1 FWS	HDS 2	JPS 3	14 LT	11 NE	35 PAT	13 RT	TOR 1N	XJS 1
1 BJL	10 CT	19 E	5 FX	7 HE	JPS 588	8 LU	7 NF	3 PB	RUB 1A	2 TP	5 XR
1 BJS	4 CU	5 E	8 FY	12 HF	14 JR	2 LUX	NFP 1	7 PC	RUK 1A	2 TR	15 XV
18 BK	9 CV	17 EA	F1 AKE	HFP 1	2 JRH	1 LV	3 NH	1 PCB	RUP 1A	19 TS	3 XX
100 BL	9 CW	1 EB	F1 ECK	1 HFS	16 JS	2 LW	NHC 1	15 PD	1 RVA	1 TSS	12 Y
40 BM	3 CX	3 EC	F1 MAC	20 HG	1 JSN	4 LX	18 NJ	PEP 1T	4 SA	TSW 1	1 YEW
18 BN	CYC 1E	3 ED	F1 OAT	HGM 1	15 JT	4 LY	18 NL	1 PHB	SAB 1E	12 TT	10 YO
11 BO	C1 AMP	1 EDY	F1 ORA	18 HH	3 JU	4 LYN	911 NM	PJC 2	18 SB	1 TUL	1 YY
17 BR	C1 AMS	8 EE	F10 RRY	8 HJ	13 JUN	2 M	20 NN	PJK 1	SBS 2	14 TV	

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Investors on the receiving end of a double whammy

INVESTORS were looking decidedly punch-drunk after finding themselves on the receiving end of the Government's double whammy. It was a foregone conclusion that the Conservatives would take a beating in the local government elections, but the extent of the rout shocked both brokers and investors alike. The decision of the Chancellor to peg interest rates, when all the pundits had been predicting a half-point rise, also came as a shock. But with the bank holiday weekend looming and some healthy profits under their belts, most City folk chose to make the most of the sunny weather and headed early for home.

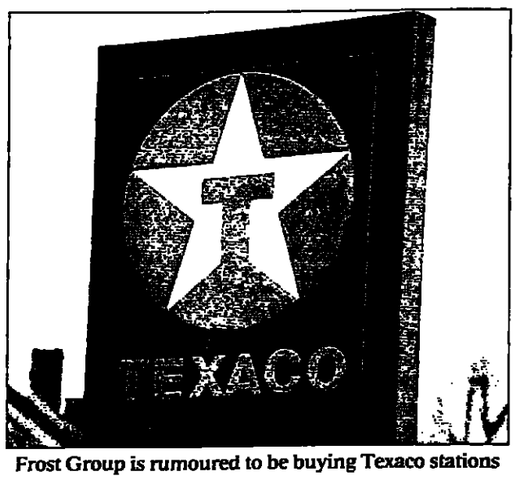
As a result, share prices held up relatively well to the news on the political front and further falls in the pound. Selling pressure was light and the FT-SE 100 index ended just 12.6 down at 3,251.7, a rise on the week of 35 points.

S G Warburg put in a late advance as speculative buyers pushed the price a further 15p higher to 842p. Brokers say details of the Swiss Bank offer for Warburg's investment banking arm will be revealed next week and could be worth more than 900p a share. However, this is some way below earlier expectations that preceded this week's profits warning, the third in seven months. Hopes of an all-out counterbid now seem remote. Nevertheless, **Mercury Asset Management**, Warburg's quoted offshoot, gained an extra 9p to 887p.

Bunzl, the packaging group, firmed 4p to 193p cheered by an upbeat trading statement. The group told brokers at a presentation in New York on Thursday that results at its paper and plastics business in the US during the first quarter were above expectations. Price increases seen in the second half of last year had continued into 1995 and overall performance was in excess of last year.

Brokers have also been singing the praises of **Morgan Crucible** following several visits to the company. The shares yield 5 per cent and look attractive with margins set to grow in the next year, or two. However, it failed to be reflected in the share price, which closed unchanged at 340p. Talk of a company visit also lifted **BBA Group** 3p to 216p.

ICI ended 1p ahead at 750p. It saw an early lead trimmed after it emerged that its agreed £180 million acquisition of Grow Group, the US paint producer, could turn into an auction. Sherwin Williams, a rival, now seems to have thrown its hat into the ring, lifting shares of Grow Group sharply higher on Wall Street. They now stand more than a dollar higher than the $18.10 offered by ICI.



Frost Group is rumoured to be buying Texaco stations

Recent disposals have enabled Fisons to build up a war chest totalling £500 million, but the group refuses to rule out a possible rights issue to further bolster its coffers. Speaking to institutional investors at a health conference arranged by Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, Stuart Walls, chief executive, said that Fisons was in talks with a number of companies.

Signet, the old Ratners jewellery chain, firmed ½p to 14p after a meeting called by preference shareholders failed to find support for a plan to sell off bits of the business in order to finance their dividend payments. The plan was rejected by more than 70 per cent of shareholders. James McAdam, chairman, said: "Until we have a cake, there is no point in discussing how to cut up the pieces".

Vistec, the electronic components group, fell 1½p to 12p after confirming that profits for the full year would be sharply down on the previous year. The company blamed higher than expected restructuring costs, a writedown of property values and a loss on the disposal of its insurance services business. The dividend will be maintained.

News of a substantial increase in sales during the first quarter lifted **Psion**, the pocket computer group, 7p to 324p. David Potter, chairman, said demand for the group's products remained strong with both net and gross margins ahead of last year.

Frost Group marked time at 271p amid mounting speculation that it is putting together a major acquisition. Word is the group plans to buy certain assets belonging to the Texaco oil giant in this country, including a number of petrol stations. Brokers say the deal could double the size of Frost, which already operates 240 sites in this country. That compares with the 1,200 sites owned by Texaco, 560 of which are owned by the company itself.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices came off sharply following the decision to peg interest rates at current levels. Losses at one stage stretched to more than £¼ with the longer end of the market baring the brunt of the setback. Prices later rallied with the short-end of the market sporting gains on the day after being reassured that a further rise can be ruled out in the short term. The best gains were seen among index-linked issues which sported rises of more than £¾ in places.

In futures, the June series of the long gilt touched £104⁵/₃₂ before ending £1/₁₆ easier at £104²¹/₃₂ as the number of contracts completed surged to 100,000.

Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2013 lost £⅛ at £97½, while the shorter end clearly benefited from renewed support with Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finishing four ticks better at £99¹³/₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Investors on Wall Street turned cautious over concern that the economy was slowing. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.61 points down at 4,352.05.

BAT Industries finished 2p firmer at 474p amid claims that RJR Nabisco, a rival, is ready to raise its cigarette brands by 4 cents a packet. Earlier this week, BAT unveiled a strong set of first-quarter figures supported by a first time contribution from its American Tobacco acquisitions.

Fisons firmed 1½p to 188½p. The company says it can call on funds totalling £1 billion with which to make acquisitions, but insists that investors should not expect news of an imminent bid for Medeva. The two sides have been locked in talks for some time. Medeva was unchanged at 242p, with the market already putting a price tag on any deal at more than £900 million.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Sage Group	945p	+117p	Better then expected figures
Kwik Save	577p	-18p	Profits slide, price cuts
SG Warburg	842p	+73P	Swiss Bank approach
Mercury Asset Man	887p	+94p	Speculative buying
Body Shop	149p	-31p	Profits warning
Tibbett & Britten	518p	-140p	Profits warning
British Airways	419p	+19pShares recommended, traffic data	
Henlys	391p	+64p	Expansion programme
Automated Security	50p	-8p	US selling

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4352.05 (-7.61)
S&P Composite 520.85 (+0.31)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8332.17 (+12.42)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index Closed

Sydney:
AO 2065.9 (+0.7)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2023.83 (-20.96)

Singapore:
Straits 2058.80 (-11.18)

Brussels:
General 7535.03 (-10.62)

Paris:
CAC-40 1927.41 (-18.78)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 619.50 (+2.90)

London:

FT 30	2472.4 (-14.3)
FT 100	3251.7 (-12.6)
FT-SE Mid 250	3555.1 (-4.9)
FT-SE-A 350	1614.4 (-5.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1329.01 (-4.36)
FT A All-Share	1595.73 (-4.65)
FT Non Financials	1722.88 (-4.86)
FT Fixed Interest	111.32 (+0.08)
FT Govt Secs	92.47 (+0.05)
Bargains	23730
SEAQ Volume	561.3m
USM (Datastrm)	152.60 (+0.42)
US$	1.6009 (-0.0169)
German Mark	2.1940 (-0.0224)
Exchange Index	83.6 (-0.8)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
ECU	1.1854
SDR	1.0261
RPI 147.5 Mar (3.5%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

Biocomp Intl (170)	171	...
Brit Aero Cap Uts p/p	725	-1
Dunyat IT Cv An Div	105	...
Dunyat IT Mthly Div	105	...
Edinburgh Japan Tst C	102	...
Finsbry World Pharm	101	...
For/Col Spec Util (100)	100	...
General Cable (190)	170	-6½
Ivory/Sime Disc Uts	495*	+2
Oryx India	650	...
Oryx India Wts	250	...
Precoat Intl (125)	136	+3
Schroder Inc Grth Fd	105	...
Schroder Inc Grth Wts	27	...
Scot Orient Smlr (100)	100	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bolton Group n/p (23)	½	...
Roskel n/p (92)	11	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Nat Aust Bank	553p (+13p)
SG Warburg	842p (+15p)
Henlys	391p (+11p)
Telspec	477p (+14p)
Isotron	250p (+12p)
Thorn EMI	1191p (+13p)
Unipalm	184p (+14p)
Cantab Pharm	133p (+30p)
Low & Bonar	469p (+9p)
Maclarlane	261p (+11p)
Serco Group	274p (+10p)
Ramco Energy	361p (+12p)
Sage Group	945p (+10p)

FALLS:

General Accident	569p (-8p)
Granada	564p (-8p)
Savoy Hotel 'A'	920p (-10p)
Carlton Comm	955p (-8p)
Boots	518p (-11p)
Sothebys	813p (-12p)
Micro Focus	708p (-22p)
Tibbet & Britten	518p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 37

TEMPUS

Surprise, surprise

HELL hath no fury like an analyst scorned, especially if clients' money is running on it. Hence, yesterday's City talk of the Bank being stabbed in the back, as if this were the first time Eddie George had failed to prevail over the Treasury on the timing of rate changes.

There were three reasons to move yesterday: to satisfy financial market expectations, to bolster sterling and to hasten the first rate cut of the upswing. None had much to do with the domestic economy or inflation targets. On those tests, there was no pressing need for a rise and therefore no argument for one when the statistical signals were so confused. Better wait a month — or two if the Chancellor can bear for the minutes of yesterday's meeting to come out first.

For the real (and political) economy, and for gilt-edged, Kenneth Clarke's important message was that rates were near their cyclical peak. That may not be news to markets. It is news to medium-sized companies or would-be homebuyers dithering over medium-term investments. Their decisions are vital to the third phase of economic recovery.

The pound's strong reaction to official inaction owed something to the straight loss of expected short-term income, more to than covering speculative disappointment. Those influences, so embarrassing to the analysts, should be short-lived. More worrying is that bored currency hunters could turn their firepower on sterling, reckoning that it is open season until the next Clarke/George meeting. If so, the Chancellor will need more nerve than yesterday and the Bank will need to make clear to markets that it is not sullen, resentful or warring with politicians.

Cantab Pharm

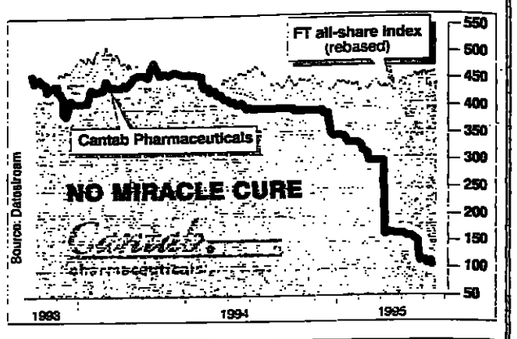
THERE is no doubt that biotechnology is highly risky. For every one new drug discovered, dozens fall by the wayside. The story differs little for the companies that make them. Ever since the flood of fledgeling biotech companies floated on the stock market, the City has been holding its breath waiting for the first horror story to emerge.

Cantab seems to fit the bill. In March, it pulled its most promising drug from development and its shares nose-dived. Yesterday, it drafted in Lehman Brothers to help to decide its fate from a range of options, including collaborations, joint ventures or an outright sale.

The for sale sign immediately breathed life into the flagging share price which gained 30p to end the day at 133p. This is a far cry from the 460p at which the shares were placed in October 1993.

The current share price is entirely supported by the group's cash resources. At the end of March, Cantab had a net cash position of £13.5 million — just ahead of its market capitalisation to £13.2 million.

The value of the company's research and its drug pipeline are not reflected in the shares. Given that the company needs a deal to support the development of its anti-viral drugs, any interested party should be able to dictate terms. The hope for shareholders is that the surviving parts of the business are attractive enough to entice more than one bidder.



Kingfisher

SIR Geoffrey Mulcahy's six-point strategy for Kingfisher looks like a boy scout's list of good deeds to be accomplished this year and Sir Geoffrey can certainly look forward to a clutch of gold stars if he succeeds.

The difficulty lies in the definition of success as Kingfisher's chief executive is a bit coy about how much improvement is required to achieve his self-imposed targets. To be fair, no shareholder has publicly demanded that the Kingfisher board lay its collective head so prominently on the block and it deserves some credit for the gesture.

The goals set out yesterday do little, however, to answer fundamental questions. Doubtless, the men in suits from head office will ensure that enough cost is cut from Comet to ensure it delivers some sort of profit this year. Similar action elsewhere should improve margins at Woolworth and Superdrug. But there is a gaping hole in the long-term strategy for Woolworth, the core of the group which still needs to find its high street niche. Woolworth boasts more than 12 million customers and £1.3 billion in sales, but growth was minimal last year and it is suffering stiff competition in music, toys and children's clothes from the likes of WH Smith, Argos and BhS.

Grampian TV

THE abolition of shareholder apartheid is a lengthy process and as each company enfranchises its non-voting stock the same banal remarks are made by directors about taking the company forward. Indeed, few would choose to describe an extension of the democratic process as a retrograde step but in the case of Grampian TV, the move is not without risk.

The Scottish company's shares noticeably lagged the market last year as bids for LWT and Anglia lifted the ratings of any company that held an ITV franchise. It seemed the Grampian board preferred the quiet life and its only participation in the frenzied bid activity was to reassert its commitment to independence. Last month, the company showed that it could deliver the goods with a 16 per cent profits advance, using its strong cash generation to finance a growing property portfolio.

Both Grampian and Scottish TV, its neighbour, looked distinctly nervous during the bid furore, and enfranchisement will remove a technical bar to a takeover of Grampian, but the level playing field has already enhanced its value. For investors seeking to capitalise on further rerating, there remains the question of motive. Enfranchisement permits the company to issue shares for cash but the company has no immediate need for funds and investors might wonder whether a large deal or merger is in the offing.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	917-913	Jul	1034-1030
Jul	1070-1066	Sep	1046-1045
Sep	999-958	Dec	1070-1063
Dec	987-985	Mar	1087-1086
Mar	1009-1008		
May	1022-1018		Volume: 4972

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	3150-3140	Jan	3095-3093
Jul	3166-3165	Mar	3085-3075
Sep	3130-3126	May	3075-3065
Nov	3115-3105		Volume: 1723

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	299.9-97.6
Spot: 369.5		May	299.8-97.5
Aug	340.5-40.0	Aug	300.2-97.1
Oct	307.0-06.5	Oct	287.2-83.7
Dec	300.5-98.6		Volume: 1095

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on May 4

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	92.69	115.02	122.60
(+/-)	-0.15	-4.19	+0.20
Eng/Wales:	92.69	115.58	121.85
(+/-)	+0.09	-3.60	-0.02
(%)	+10.0	+13.0	-1.0
Scotland:	92.55	108.35	125.40
(+/-)	-7.56	-11.14	+0.96
(%)	+39.0	-6.0	-1.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.85	+0.15
Brent (5 day (Jun)	19.05	+0.15
Brent (5 day (Jul)	18.50	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.35	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	20.10	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 206 (+1)	O: 208 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	165 (+4)	166 (+4)
Non EEC IH Jun	159 (+1)	161 (+1)
Non EEC IH Jul	158 (+1)	160 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	106 (+2)	107 (+2)
Naphtha	181 (+1)	183 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

May	157.75-58.00	Aug	157.25-57.50
Jun	156.75 BID	Sep	158.50-59.00
Jul	156.50-56.75		Vol. 13362

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	19.00-19.01	Sep	17.82 BID
Jul	18.47-18.48	Oct	17.67 BID
Aug	18.12-18.15		Vol: 20219

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	119.75	May	113.25
Jul	120.90	Sep	104.25
Sep	104.45	Nov	105.90
Nov	106.40	Jan	107.85
Jan	108.30	Mar	110.25
Volume: 473		Volume: 71	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	131.0	128.5
May	unq	145.0
Jun		
Volume: 23		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Jun 119.00-119.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
May 95	2335	2310	2325
Jun 95	2220	2200	2305
Jul 95	2045	2025	2025
Oct 95	1970	1930	1960
Vol: 130 lots		Open interest: 4437	
		Index 2343 -3	

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2715.0-2716.0	3mth: 2706.0-2707.0	Vol: 2033100
Lead ($/tonne)	598.00-599.00	612.50-613.00	156025
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1029.5-1030.0	1051.0-1052.0	741200
Tin ($/tonne)	5970.0-5975.0	5950.0-5960.0	30125
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1736.0-1737.0	1738.0-1739.0	1613925
Nickel ($/tonne)	6975.0-6980.0	7100.0-7105.0	106182

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Calls			Puts		
Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Allid Dom. 500	51	54½	60½	5	9	15½
(*548) 550	14	23½	32½	26	30	38
Argyll 280	16½	22	27	9½	13½	17
(*290) 300	6½	13	18	21½	25	28
ASDA 70	9½	10½	12	1	2	3
(*77½) 80	3½	5	6½	5	6½	7½
Boots 500	25	35½	40½	13	17	21
(*517.) 550	4	13½	18½	45½	47½	50
Br Airways 390	34½	41½	46	7	12	15½
(*419) 420	14½	24	32	20	25	29
BP 420	39	46½	53½	3½	8	10½
(*455) 460	13	22	30	18	24	26½
Br Steel ... 160	14½	17	19	4	6	7½
(*170.) 180	4	7½	9½	15	16½	17½
C & W 390	25½	36	43	10½	15½	20
(*405.) 420	10½	21½	28	27	31½	35½
CU 550	38½	48	58	12	21	26½
(*568.) 600	12	24	34	37½	48	53
ICI 700	63½	74	87	5½	14½	19½
(*749.) 750	28½	41½	57	21½	34	38½
Kingfishr. 460	25	36½	46½	15	23½	28½
(*466.) 500	9½	18	28	38½	45½	50½
Land Sec.. 550	37	40½	47½	9½	13½	17½
(*581) 600	6	14½	22½	40	42½	44½
M & S 420	14	23½	30	11½	19	21½
(*422½) 460	2½	8½	14½	44½	47	47½
Nat West... 500	51½	59	69½	6	12½	16½
(*540½) 550	19	28½	40	23½	33½	37½
Sainsbury 420	17½	27½	34½	12½	16	20
(*429½) 460	3	11	17	40	41½	44
Shell 750	28	41½	52½	13½	23½	27½
(*756½) 800	7½	17½	28	45	52½	53
Smkl Bch. 300	20½	30½	40	7½	15	20½
(*301) 550	4½	12½	20½	53	57½	61½
Storehse ... 240	10½	16½	20½	10½	12½	14½
(*241) 260	3	8	12	24	25	26½
Tratalgar.... 50	7½	10	11	1	3	4
(*56½) 60	2½	5	7	6	7½	9
Unilever. 1200	63	93	109	14	34½	39½
(*1235½) 1250	32	62½	79½	34½	45½	51
Zeneca..... 900	47	65	85½	17	32	39
(*919½) 950	22	39½	59½	42½	57	63½

Series	May Aug	Nov	May Aug	Nov		
Grnd Met. 390	10½	21½	29½	2½	13	16½
(*398) 420	1½	9½	15½	22½	30½	33
Ladbroke.. 180	5	13	17	2	7½	10
(*183½) 200	0	5	8½	16½	19	21½
Utd Bisc ... 330	19½	31½	39½	1	7	12
(*348½) 360	2½	15	23½	13½	20	26½

May 5. 1995 Tot: 20044 Call: 9417
Put: 10627 FT-SE Call: 2065 Put: 4628
*Underlying security price.

	Calls			Puts		
Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAA 460	29½	38½	46	8½	12	16½
(*480½) 500	9	18½	26	29½	32½	36½
Thames W 460	29½	34½	38	12½	18½	24
(*482) 500	7	14½	19½	38	41½	46½

Series	May Aug	Nov	May Aug	Nov		
BAT Ind ... 460	16½	32½	39	3	10½	22
(*473½) 500	1	13½	20	27	39	44
BTR 330	5½	18	23	3½	10½	16½
(*332½) 360	0	6	10½	27½	29½	35
Br Aero 531	11½	—	—	11	—	—
(*533½) 580	0½	—	—	47	—	—
Br Telcm .. 390	10½	20½	25½	2	14	17½
(*398½) 420	0½	6½	12	21½	33½	35½
Cadbury ... 447	11	25½	—	3½	12	—
(*452½) 486	0½	9	—	32½	35½	—
Guinness 460	12½	28½	36	3½	13	18
(*468½) 500	0½	10½	17½	31½	36	39½
GEC 300	10	17	20½	1½	11	12½
(*308) 330	0½	4	8	22	31	31½
Hanson.... 220	17½	20	22½	0	3	6
(*237) 240	2½	8	12	5	11	15
LASMO.... 160	13½	19	24	0	3½	5½
(*173) 180	1½	7½	13	8	12	14
Lucas 180	14½	21½	25½	0½	4½	8
(*194) 200	2	10	14½	7½	13	18
Pilkingtn.. 180	3½	9½	14	3	8½	10½
(*181½) 200	0	2½	6	18½	22	23½
Prudential 300	22	30½	35½	0½	4	8½
(*321) 330	2	13	18½	11	16	22
Redland ... 420	12½	29½	39½	2½	13½	20½
(*429½) 460	0½	11½	20	31½	36½	42
R-Royce.... 160	18½	24	26	0	2½	5
(*178) 180	3½	11½	14	4½	9½	13
Tesco 360	10½	19	24	1	5½	9
(*369½) 280	1	8½	14	11½	15½	18½
Vodafone.. 180	18½	23	29	0½	3½	6
(*198) 200	3	11	17	5	11½	14½
Williams .. 330	10	22½	26	2	8½	14
(*338) 360	0	8	12	22	25½	30½

FT-SE INDEX (*3250)

3150	3200	3250	3300	3350	3400	
Calls						
May	115	68	34½	13	4	1
Jun	129½	93	61½	37	20	10
Jul	157.	122½	92½	67½	45½	30½
Aug	172	138½	107½	82	59½	42
Dec	—	209	—	154	—	107
Puts						
May	4	10	26½	56½	100	150
Jun	18	30½	49½	76	110½	153
Jul	35½	50½	70½	96	126	163
Aug	45	61½	80½	105½	134	166
Dec	—	104	—	149½	—	204½

Series	May Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Abby Nat. 460	18	28	37½	9½	18½	22
(*465) 500	3½	11½	19	36	42½	45
Amstrad ... 200	10	17	22½	5½	10	12½
(*204) 220	2½	8½	14	18	21	23½
Barclays ... 600	49½	61½	74	3½	13	19½
(*640½) 650	16	30	45	20½	33½	41
Blue Circ .. 280	21	30½	35	3½	9½	13
(*295½) 300	9½	19	24½	12	18	22
Br Gas 300	6	12½	17½	10½	14½	19½
(*302½) 330	0½	3½	7	32½	37½	40
Dixons 220	20½	23½	27½	2½	7	9½
(*237) 240	8	12	16½	10	17	19
Forte 220	20	26	29½	1	3½	6
(*237) 240	6½	13½	17½	7½	10½	13½
Hillsdwn.. 160	21	26½	27½	0½	1½	3½
(*179½) 180	5	11	15	5½	8	10½
Lonrho 160	10	14½	19½	2½	7	8½
(*166½) 180	1½	5½	10½	14	18	19½
Sears..... 100	8	10	11½	1	2½	3½
(*108½) 110	2	4½	6½	6	7½	8
Thrn Emi 1150	57	75½	88½	10½	30½	38½
(*1189) 1200	27	47½	62½	29	56	65
Tomkins .. 240	10½	15½	20½	5½	11½	14½
(*243) 260	3	7	12	18	24	26½
TSB..... 240	16	23	28	5	10½	12½
(*250) 260	6½	12½	18	15	21	22½
Wellcome 1000	70	76	—	0	1½	—
(*1069) 1050	21½	32	—	3½	10½	—

Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo Well 700	51	65½	73	10	28	33½
(*731) 750	22	37½	47	32	53	58½
HSBC 900	70½	88	103½	13	27	36
(*748½) 750	40½	59½	77	32½	48½	58
Reuter 460	30	40½	52½	11½	17½	21½
(*474½) 500	10½	21	32½	32½	38	42

Series	May	Jul	Oct	May	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins 300	14½	23	28½	1½	8½	14½
(*310) 330	1½	8	14½	20	24½	30½

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Eastern Gp 600	25	46	58	3	28	36
(*622.) 650	2	21	35½	29	56½	64

Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr.. 420	33	37	43½	4½	11	13½
(*449½) 460	6½	16	23	26½	32	33
Scot Pwr... 330	19½	25½	31	9½	14	16½
(*342) 360	5½	10½	16½	21½	31½	33

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½. Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 4½ Week fixed: 6½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6½; 3 mth 6½. Sell: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth: 6¼.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6¼	
Sterling Money Rates:	6½-6¼	6½-6¼	6½-6⅝	7⅛-7	7½-7⅜
Interbank:	6½-6¼	6½-6¼	6⅝-6⅛	7⅛-6⅞	7½-7⅜
Overnight: open 6½, close 4½.					
Local Authority Deps:	6¼	n/a	6⅝	7⅛	7⅛
Sterling CDs:	6½-6¼	6⅝-6¼	6⅝-6⅞	7-6¼	7⅛-7⅛
Dollar CDs:	6.02	n/a	6.08	6.14	6.35
Building Society CDs:	6½-6¼	6⅝-6¼	6¼-6¼	7⅛-6⅝	7⅛-7⅛

TREASURY BILLS: Applics: £4,566m allotted: £1.100m: Bids: £98.45% received: 57%; Last week: £98.350% received: 85%; Avge rate: £6.2097% last wk £6.6146%: Next week: £1.100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6-5½	6⅛-5⅝	6⅛-5⅝	6⅛-6	5½-6
Deutschemark:	4⅛-4	4⅛-4	4⅛-4	4½-4¼	5-4
French Franc:	7½-7	8-7½	7½-7¼	7⅛-7	8½-6½
Swiss Franc:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3	3½-3¼	3⅛-3	3⅛-2½
Yen:	1⅛-1¼	1⅛-1¼	1⅛-1¼	1⅛-1¼	1¼-1

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $391.25-391.75 Close: $389.50-390.00 High: $391.75-392.25
Low: $388.70-389.20 AM: $391.35 PM: $391.00

Krugerrand: $392.00-394.00 (£245.00-247.00)

Platinum: $456.00 (£285.20) **Silver:** $6.00 (£3.755) **Palladium:** $163.75 (£102.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for May 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4507-2.4811	2.4541-2.4573	⅛-¼pr	1¾-1½pr
Brussels	45.12-45.68	45.18-45.28	11-22pr	21-11pr
Copenhagen	8.6040-8.7100	8.6040-8.6190	¼-¼pr	¾-1pr
Dublin	0.9770-0.9799	0.9773-0.9798	par-3ds	3pr-1ds
Frankfurt	2.1903-2.2136	2.1914-2.1945	¼-¼pr	1¾-1¼pr
Lisbon	231.83-234.57	232.17-232.81	65-81ds	199-215ds
Madrid	194.88-196.93	194.99-195.28	35-45ds	112-130ds
Milan	2606.4-2655.1	2609.8-2619.5	7-10ds	22-26ds
Montreal	2.1632-2.1919	2.1632-2.1662	0.15-0.22ds	0.36-0.39ds
New York	1.5978-1.6130	1.5978-1.5988	0.12-0.10pr	0.33-0.30pr
Oslo	9.8860-9.9880	9.8860-9.9020	1¾-1½ds	4¼-3½pr
Paris	7.8180-7.9020	7.8180-7.8320	¼-1ds	1¾-2ds
Stockholm	11.5900-11.6900	11.5900-11.6140	1¾-2¼ds	4¼-6
Tokyo	134.19-135.43	134.19-134.45	½-¼pr	2-1½pr
Vienna	15.35-15.59	15.35-15.40	3¼-2¾pr	9¾-7¾pr
Zurich	1.8079-1.			

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EYE ON ETHICS 33
Investing in female-friendly companies

WEEKEND MONEY

LIQUID ASSETS 34
How to put £50 or £200 a month to work



Running for cover in tax debacle

Robert Miller and **Sara McConnell** look at this week's row over payment protection insurance

An arcane piece of 19th-century legislation lay behind this week's noisiest political row. The disclosure in *The Times* that the Government was proposing to collect tax on the payments made under mortgage payment protection policies to the jobless and the sick led to a ministerial U-turn of record speed.

Within hours of the appearance of the report, the Treasury issued a statement saying that the payments would not, after all, be subject to tax. In the interim, ministers had either denied the existence of any such plans, or spoken of a review under way into the tax position of these payments.

The first intimation that the Government had mortgage protection policies in its sights came in a March letter to the Council of Mortgage Lenders from Roger Evans, an Under Secretary of State for Social Security, a copy of which has been seen by *The Times*. This stated categorically that payments were subject to tax and that insurance firms paying out under these policies would have to act as tax collectors. This opinion was based on obscure Victorian laws.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders together with the Association of British Insurers were shocked by the implications of Mr Evans's ruling.

Not only would the taxation hit the two million-plus homeowners with mortgage protection cover but also the new borrowers who will be compelled by the new income support rules to buy this insurance. In October, under a controversial measure, state help to the unemployed homebuyer will be severely restricted. The CML predicted the "tax bombshell" would further damage the ailing housing market.

Then, as the week progressed and the row refused to die down, it was confirmed that a tax threat also hung over anyone taking out cover for any other kind of debt, such as personal loans from banks and building societies and credit cards.

Consumers pay £1 billion a year in premiums to buy loan protection insurance. Ironically they are already paying insurance premium tax at 2.5 per cent on their contributions.

The harassed Chancellor, who earlier in the week admitted he had never even heard of the taxation of regular income payouts, was forced to make yet another statement. This time, however, his words were not so conciliatory.

As a result, this week ten million people with personal loan and credit card cover are realising that they could still face paying tax at their highest rate on benefits from payment protection policies should they ever be so unfortunate as to have to claim. Their fate now depends on a series of talks between the Revenue and the insurance industry starting next Tuesday. But how does this payment protection insurance work? We put the key questions to Marjorie Bevan, Abbey National's expert.

Mortgage insurance warning

Tax shock for sick or jobless homeowners

How *The Times* broke the story this week

Q Back to basics. What is a payment protection policy and how does it work?

A It pays out if you take out a loan then fall ill or lose your job and cannot make the repayments. Payment protection policies are sold to cover mortgages, personal loans and credit card debts. Generally, you pay a monthly premium for insurance on top of your loan repayment, but in some cases personal loan cover allows you to pay a one-off premium at the outset.

Q What is the price and what are the benefits?

A These policies are not cheap (see box) and their benefits are limited. For example, you will normally have to wait two or three months after you claim before the policy starts paying out. Then the policy may pay out for only 12 months, particularly if you are claiming after being made redundant. If you are claiming because you are ill, you may get payouts for up to three years, but pre-existing medical conditions will exclude you. Some mortgage protection policies offer a fixed benefit so when interest rates change you must contact the insurer. If rates go down you will pay less for your cover, but if they rise, you will pay more. Borrowers with a fixed or discounted mortgage will need to be particularly watchful because they could be wrong-footed by rate changes and left with insufficient cover.

Q How will the Chancellor now deal with mortgage protection policies?

A On Tuesday, the Chancellor promised that payments under mortgage protection policies would be "free from tax because equivalent payments from income support had always been exempt from tax". He said he would introduce legislation in the next Finance Bill to exempt benefits paid under mortgage payment protection policies from tax. The exemption will be retrospective.

Q How about policies covering other sorts of loan?

A On Thursday, Kenneth Clarke was forced to issue another statement to allay fears that benefits paid under other protection policies were at risk of being taxed. He said that the Revenue had not yet made a decision on these policies. If the Revenue insists that policies are taxable and ministers decline to change the law to exempt them, anyone whose policy pays off a loan in monthly instalments for more than 12 months would have basic rate tax deducted from payouts and higher rate taxpayers would have to declare the difference. Premiums are currently set assuming no tax is payable.

Q Can everybody take out loan protection insurance?

A No, there a number of exceptions, such as contract workers with less than 12 months of their contracts to run, part-timers working less than 16 hours a week, and those not in continuous employment for six months.

THE COST OF PROTECTION

■ **Mortgage payment protection.** Premiums are worked out per £100 of cover. Of the two largest lenders, the Halifax charges £6.90 per £100 of cover, while the Abbey National charges £6.95 per £100. The Halifax's cover will pay the mortgage for 24 months if you cannot work through sickness or disability and 12 months if you are made redundant. The Abbey pays out for 12 months for redundancy and up to three years for sickness or disability.

■ **Payment protection for personal loans.** A monthly premium is added onto your repayments. On a loan of £5,000 repayable over three years you would pay £20.87 a month with the Halifax and £19.03 with the Abbey. The Halifax pays for 12 months if you are made redundant and up to 60 months for sickness or disability. The Abbey pays for 12 months for redundancy and for the term of the loan for sickness or disability.

■ **Credit cards.** Insurance pays off a minimum credit balance or a percentage of your balance. The Halifax charges 60p per month per £100 outstanding on the card.

Benefit cuts, page 32



Giving notice: mortgage lenders said such a "bombshell" would further damage the ailing housing market

KW funds switch approved

Investors with Knight Williams, the controversial independent financial adviser, yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of a proposed takeover of their funds by Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank (Caroline Merrell writes).

The deal means that the 20,000 KW investors' funds, currently worth £400 million, will be dissolved and the assets passed over to Singer & Friedlander's range of investment funds. The bank aims to match as far as possible the asset allocation and risk profile of the existing KW funds.

The switchover will boost investors' holdings by about £200 for every £20,000 invested. This is because the new funds will be on a single-priced basis, as opposed to having different buying and selling prices, like a unit trust.

In spite of nearly 98 per cent of investors voting in favour, some who attended a series of EGMs, one for each fund to be dissolved, were concerned that they were being "railroaded" into a decision.

At the meetings in London, Tony Fraher, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander, quelled fears about the performance of his company's funds and pointed out that most were in the upper quartile in performance terms. He also emphasised that former KW clients would continue to be protected by the Investors Compensation Scheme.

He said: "The ICS will continue to apply in the same way as it did with Knight Williams. The transferred assets will be ring-fenced, they are not assets of Singer & Friedlander."

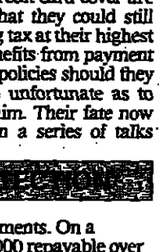
Kenneth Jordan, founder of the Knight Williams action group, which has spearheaded a campaign for compensation on behalf of 250 dissatisfied clients, said that he would continue to keep an eye on the performance of the funds under Singer & Friedlander.

He added: "The action group will remain in place in a monitoring capacity."

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

A time to forget old saws

INVESTMENT STRATEGY



ANTHONY HARRIS

Whenever the equity market starts the month of May with a strong showing, veteran investors feel a familiar twinge of memory: "Sell in May, and go away." The odd thing about this irrational old saw is that historically it has been right more often than not: there does seem to be some rising-sap effect among brokers as the darling buds open. In a year like this, when the market surges as the news gets worse, the old reflex seems especially timely. Sterling is weak, the economy is slowing, the outside world looks threatening and quarrelsome, and at home the only problem for news editors is what gets the lead: today's City disaster, or today's government gaffe? And still, most days, the market rises. It could hardly be more suggestive.

Wait a minute, though. Every investor needs well-developed reflexes, but not as a spur to action: when your thumbs prick the first thing to do is not to ring your broker, but to review the facts. The market may be up — it has risen about 10 per cent since its end-of-winter blues a few weeks ago; but is it high? In relation to the past? In relation to earnings? And perhaps most important, in relation to gilts? And when you have answers to these questions about the fundamentals, look inside the market: is the cash likely to flow in or out? (If there is one unchanging theme in these columns, it is that while the fundamentals are a good guide to the long term, in the short run, cash is king.)

Fortunately, all of these questions are straightforward, and most of them give the same answer: the market may be up, but it is not high. Historically, the Footsie peaked in 1994, before the Fed started an avalanche with a pebble-sized quarter-point rise in interest rates. Since then, Wall Street has reached repeated records, but the Footsie is still about 100 points downhill from the base camp established then. It is true that the rise in US earnings has been even more spectacular than that in Britain; but remember that while the US rise looks likely to level off, British companies have yet to report the boost that will result from sterling's fall. (Another old theme: equity value moves the opposite way to exchange rates.)

High in relation to earnings? Slightly more complicated. Price-earnings ratios do look quite demanding at the moment, which means simply that the expectation of more rises is already in prices; but they are well short of stratospheric. Dividend yields, by contrast, look tempting at nearly 4 per cent in relation both to history and to gilts. Prospectively, yields are well over half the running yield on long gilts, while historically they have been well under half before every main market correction. Two caveats: British distribution ratios are historically high — too high, according to the CBI; and the inflation risk which explains the higher gilts yield has faded. Even so, nothing here looks remotely like thin ice.

It is the market itself, though, which is the clincher. Institutional cash flow has improved as contribution holidays have ended: and now there is an important new cash flow from takeovers. The cash bids already announced this year will add about a third to normal institutional cash flows. On the demand side, the strong cash position of corporate balance sheets and the cautious approach to expansion both suggest that rights issues will be rare. A stock shortage seems much likelier than a glut.

So the up trend looks safe. How far? Unless the gilt market bucks the international recovery, equities would have to reach 3,450 just to keep in step. If the gilts recovery should persist, that level-pegging target would rise well above 3,600. And given cash, stock shortage and momentum, the peak could be a good deal higher. So there is plenty of possible upside. As for the downside, we may come to that. Remember that May is less than a week old.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES

The flow of new investment trusts is drying up, **Robert Miller** reports

JAMES MORGAN



The trail-blazing First Russian Frontiers trust launched last December has used warrants to good effect

Investors grow wary

Investors supported investment trusts in unprecedented numbers during 1994, helping to make it a bumper year with 45 new launches attracting a record £3.9 billion. But figures published this week show that as the flow of new trusts dries up, with only seven coming on stream in the first quarter of this year against 19 in the same period last year, investors are being more cautious.

On Monday, the Association of Investment Trust Companies revealed that the number of savers who use the popular, low-cost, regular monthly and lump sum savings schemes has fallen by nearly 5,000 to 81,333 since the end of last year. At the same time, the amount of money they invested was down nearly £18 million to £44 million.

That is not to say that investors who backed last year's newcomers have done particularly badly. Those who backed Rothschild's Five Arrows Chile trust since it changed its status from offshore fund to investment trust last July would be sitting on a 6 per cent gain. Even more impressive is the performance of the warrants that came with the Chile trust. Between February and the beginning of May this year, their value has soared by nearly 111 per cent, while the actual shares in the trust are up 11 per cent.

Warrants are a feature of almost every new investment trust nowadays. Generally, investors receive one free warrant for every five shares they are granted. These warrants give investors the right to buy a fixed number of shares at a set date and at a predetermined price.

But you do not have to exercise that right and warrants trade separately on the stock market from the ordinary shares of a trust. So you can sell them on without ever having to exercise them. They are a sweetener to attract investors, particularly for the more specialist trusts. The trail-blazing First Russian Frontiers trust launched last December and managed by Pictet, the asset management arm of the private Swiss Bank, used them to good effect.

But warrants are part and parcel of new investment trust launches and without the momentum of high-profile and often marketing-driven events, investors have become wary of committing too much money.

But last year's investment trust launch figures are distorted by the fact that nearly £2 billion of the total raised was down to the enormous public appetite for just three of the debutants. The blockbuster European Privatisation trusts from Mercury and Kleinwort Benson together accounted for £1 billion, but they were dwarfed by the £740 million flotation of 3i.

Special performance data supplied by Micropal shows that over the past year the Kleinwort European trust is down by 12 per cent. Its twin at Mercury is showing a profit of 33p for every £100 invested over the same time. As befits the new leader of the investment trust sector, 3i has rewarded its followers with a return of £22.28 for every £100 invested. These figures have to be set against the Micropal average for all investment trusts, which show that investors, in general, are nursing losses of about 10 per cent. But that is no reason to sell out, says John Szymanowski, investment trust analyst at SG Warburg. If you already have a holding in an investment trust, are thinking about it, or you want to back a new launch there are three basic questions to ask yourself. The Szymanowski checklist is:

- Do I believe the investment story?
- Why now as opposed to say in three months' time?
- What is the reputation and expertise of the trust's manager?

There is a fourth question for new trusts and that is: can I buy the investment theme, such as Chile or commodities or emerging markets in general, through an already existing trust?

As an example, Mr Szymanowski quotes the case of the Mercury World Mining Trust launched in December 1993 and managed by Julian Baring. "At the launch, Julian Baring predicted that base metal prices would rise," says Mr Szymanowski. "Well, they have rocketed since then. But the share prices of the companies in the Mercury portfolio have hardly moved. Yet the aggregate earnings of the largest investments held by World Mining were $829 million in 1993. That shot up to $2.2 billion last year and the consensus forecast for this year is $3.8 billion. Sooner or later that value has to filter through to investors."

TRUST WATCH

THE Treasury this week published a set of draft regulations that could revolutionise the way in which unit trusts are sold and promoted in the future.

Anthony Nelson, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, told Weekend Money that the proposed new open-ended investment companies, known by the unprepossessing name of oeics, will stem the flow of hundreds of millions of pounds of UK investors' money to offshore centres such as Luxembourg and Dublin. As a plus, unit trust companies will find it much easier to promote their funds throughout Europe and elsewhere.

Mr Nelson also said that when oeics are up and running, possibly by the beginning of next year, they will spearhead the Government's next stage of spreading wider share ownership. He said: "We are now of the view that many investors would like to put their long-term savings in a vehicle such as the proposed new open-ended companies that in turn invest in a range of companies rather than just one or two privatisation issues."

Oeics could offer considerable advantages over both unit trusts and investment trusts. They will be made up of shares, like an investment trust, but they will be open-ended, like a unit trust.

One of the biggest advantages of the new funds over unit trusts is that they will operate on a single price, that is, investors will be able to buy and sell shares at the same price.

This system contrasts with the bid/offer spread on unit trusts, where the price at which you can sell units is usually about 6 per cent lower than the price at which you buy them. It is this pricing system and the use of trustees that have made it difficult for unit trust companies to sell their funds abroad.

Unit trust companies say oeics would be much cheaper to operate than unit trusts, which is one of the reasons why many of them are considering converting their existing unit trusts into oeics as soon as the legislation is finalised.

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, the trade body for the unit trust industry, believes that up to 50 per cent of unit trusts may eventually convert.

ROBERT MILLER AND CAROLINE MERRELL

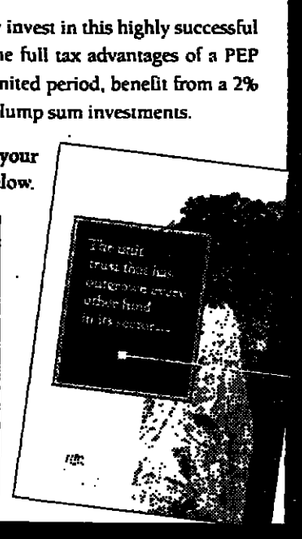
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Society bosses feel the strain



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Fun and laughter were never the keynote of the annual Building Societies Association conference. But when delegates gather in Birmingham in 11 days' time, the smiles may be more strained than usual, as chief executives ponder whether they will be eligible to attend next year. Or whether they will be facing a new future as head of a bank subsidiary, after a painful takeover battle that severely curtailed their golfing time.

A few days after the conference, the Abbey National will reveal the details of its planned £1.1 billion bid for the National & Provincial Building Society. The Abbey's approach has this week sent the N&P, tipped last year by *The Times* as a takeover candidate, out on a search for a friendly merger with either the Nationwide, the Alliance & Leicester, or the Woolwich.

Meanwhile, other societies are realising that their independence could also be at threat to a hostile bidder — which might not even be British. A number of German, Spanish and possibly Dutch banks see a society as an ideal way to enter the UK financial services industry. Although some of these foreign banks have the billions needed to buy a top-five society, others have a more restricted budget.

This means that more moderately-sized societies, such as the Bristol & West (price tag about £550 million) and the Birmingham Midshires (£350 million) could be in someone's sights. Although the prospect of foreigners poised to pounce may be causing consternation among building society bosses, they also know that their customers would view an approach from home or overseas as an opportunity for some easy money.

The knowledge that savers and borrowers would put their interests first, with barely a second thought for the career paths of the society's senior managers may lay behind recent attempts to play down the importance of members. They have been reminded they do not have the same rights as shareholders and that they do not own the society's reserves.

But members should not be demoralised. No one would dare to try to take over a society without offering money to the members, as members have one significant advantage: the right to vote for or against any deal.

No-risk gamble

SUCH is the eagerness of National & Provincial customers to know how much the Abbey National will pay for their society that they are calling at Abbey branches to find out more. Unfortunately, Abbey staff cannot speculate on the sum, as the two organisations have, within the past few days, signed a confidentiality agreement.

Those who are not N&P members and have no excuse to hang around in the air-conditioned Abbey branches can console themselves with the findings of a survey by *Investors Chronicle*.

This reveals that prize money of as much as £15 billion could be in store for building society savers, if their societies decide to welcome the embrace of a bidder.

The not entirely serious survey calculates that an N&P saver could receive as much as £860, £200 more than previous estimates. Other lucky savers include Leeds & Holbeck devotees who could, it is calculated, collect £747 on a takeover, while those of Northern Rock, the successful Newcastle-based society, could pocket £902.

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Results for 1994

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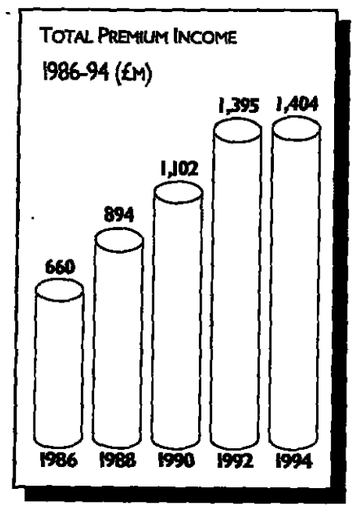
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From the Report of the Chairman, Mr. D J Wise, OBE, to the Annual General Meeting, May 1995.

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Elderly cast from care

Liz Dolan visits the twilight world of the old and underfunded



BBC TELEVISION

Should Tom and Diana, in *Waiting for God*, be concerned about care of the elderly?

Elderly and infirm people are being evicted from residential care homes because social security payments are failing to keep up with rises in fees, Age Concern England said this week.

Representatives of the charity are to meet Roger Evans, an Under Secretary at the Social Security Department, on Tuesday to discuss what they fear is a fast-growing crisis in the financing of elderly people in care. They say the situation is the direct result of changes in government funding arrangements introduced two years ago.

Depending on the outcome of the initial discussions with the Government, Age Concern is considering plans for a high-profile campaign to bring the problem to the attention of a wider audience.

Sally Greengross, director-general, said: "We are now at the point where vulnerable older people are being evicted from their homes. Do we need any more proof that the current system isn't working?"

On April 1, 1993, local authorities took over financial responsibility for all elderly people in care. Those who already lived in a residential, or nursing home, remained the responsibility of the DSS, even if they were not, at that time, claiming income support. These people are said to have "preserved rights" to DSS funding.

"People on preserved rights are a legacy of the community care reforms," Lady Greengross said. "They should not have to take part in a lottery with no jackpot."

Since the changes were implemented, care home costs have risen faster than DSS payments. "The Government must recognise that preserved rights to income support for some residents in residential and nursing homes doesn't cover the cost of care, and causes residents and their families to fear for the future. There is a range of options available to the Government that it must now consider." If DSS payments do not meet the existing charges, and relatives and friends are unable, or unwilling to meet the shortfall, the local authority assumes financial responsibility for their care. This can mean that people who have been happily settled in a home for a long time are forced to leave, even if they subsequently end up in a home charging the same level of fees, or even higher, Age Concern says. The local authority cannot take over responsibility for people who previously had preserved DSS rights until they have actually been evicted from their existing accommodation.

"The real stinker is that there's no way the local authority can top up DSS payments so they remain in their existing home." Apart from anything else, this means that the local authority will then have to meet the total bill, once the resident has been moved to a new home, rather than having to find a relatively small sum to allow them to stay where they are, Age Concern says.

Margaret Bailey, owner of a residential home in Essex, says three of her residents have already had to leave because they were unable to pay the fees. At least one has ended up in a home charging higher fees.

Mrs Bailey's home froze its fees this year. An increase last year was purely to cover rising costs, she says. Fifteen of the current 25 residents have been with her since before the DSS cut-off date in 1993. Most are currently self-funding, but many are coming to the end of their resources. Some relatives fight hard to get alternative funding from charities, she says. "Others can't be bothered." Only two or three provide funding from their own pockets.

Offspring do not have any legal obligations to meet any shortfall, though this does not remove the desire to do so — a situation that can lead to a whole new set of problems.

Mrs Bailey cites the example of one couple in their 70s who are currently paying the fees of a parent, who is 93. "They may have to stop paying soon because they're getting to the stage where they're going to need the money for themselves."

The DSS said: "The situation is actually quite simple. Care homes can charge what they like. We will pay care home fees up to certain limits. If the fees are above these limits, people have various options. If they wish to stay in the home, they, or their relatives can make up the difference between our contribution and the rest of the cost."

The DSS said that the fees of "some" homes still fall within prescribed DSS limits, but could give no indication of what proportion of all care homes these represented.

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Take cover to trim those legal bills

Helen Pridham considers insurance as an alternative to legal aid



Barristers' costs can add thousands of pounds to legal action bills

With the Government determined to reduce the legal aid bill to the bare minimum, more and more people are being caught in an "injustice" trap. They cannot get their full rights under the law because they are too well off to qualify for legal aid, but cannot afford the cost of long, drawn-out, legal action.

Solicitors report that clients with good cases are often forced to give up legal action or accept lower, out-of-court, settlements because they cannot meet mounting legal bills. Bringing a relatively straightforward legal case can easily cost between £3,000 to £4,000, while personal injury cases involving expert witnesses can add up to tens of thousands of pounds. And there is no guarantee of success.

There is an easy and cheap way round this problem. You can add legal expenses insurance to your motor and household insurance policies for as little as £10 to £15 a year.

However, these legal protection add-ons do not all give the same cover and policyholders need to look carefully at what they are getting.

Legal expenses add-ons to motor policies have become more popular in recent years and some insurers report that as many as nine out of ten policyholders now opt for this extra. With some motor policies, legal expenses insurance is included automatically.

Motor add-ons are principally designed to cover the cost of pursuing legal action to recover uninsured losses if you are involved in a motor accident that is not your fault. These losses can include your policy "excess", the hire of replacement vehicles, compensation for damage to clothes and belongings and compensation for injuries suffered in an accident, or compensation for your family if you are killed.

Under household policies, where the take-up of legal expenses add-ons is much lower, the scope of the insurance is more varied, depending on the cover.

Some provide only two basic areas of cover — for consumer disputes over the purchase or sale of goods and services and compensation claims in the event of injury or death in an accident that was not your fault, including medical negligence claims. This is the basic cover provided by Lawclub for Cornhill's household policies and the Legal Protection Group, which acts for Sun Alliance.

However, add-on policies provided for a number of large household insurers by DAS and Hambro Legal Protection, the two leading legal expenses insurers, are normally more extensive. Besides consumer disputes and personal injuries cover, they will often cover you for the pursuit of civil claims relating to your main residence, such as disputes with neighbours, and contract of employment disputes, such as claims of unfair dismissal.

Edward Wright, chief executive of Hambro Legal Protection, says: "The most frequent areas for legal expenses claims under household legal protection policies are for consumer disputes. Holiday problems are very common, disputes with neighbours, for example, over boundaries, and employment problems."

DAS and Hambro Legal Protection will tailor their policies to meet different insurers' requirements, so you may not get their full range of cover if your insurer has not deemed it necessary. DAS, for example, offers policies with Direct Line, the Prudential and General Accident. Hambro provides legal add-ons for Norwich Union, Commercial Union and others.

Both DAS and Hambro also sell add-on policies through independent insurance brokers. But DAS only provides the basic personal injuries and consumer dispute cover under policies sold through this route. Hambro's is the most extensive. Besides areas already mentioned, it also covers the defence of motoring prosecutions and legal fees incurred if you are singled out for an "in-depth" investigation by the Inland Revenue, which it says may get more frequent when "self-assessment" is introduced.

Claims will be accepted by legal expenses insurers only if they decide you have a reasonable prospect of winning your case. However, Paul Asplin, assistant general manager of DAS, says: "We do not make this decision ourselves, we accept the professional judgment of the solicitors involved. Provided there is a 50-50 chance of winning, we will back the case." Pre-existing problems, and claims that arise within, say three to six months of taking out the insurance, though, are usually excluded.

The limits on cover, which normally extends to the policyholder's family, are typically £25,000 or £50,000 per claim. This covers solicitors' and barristers' fees, expert witnesses, court costs and opponents' costs, if these are awarded against you.

Legal expenses insurance can put you in a better position right from the start. As one solicitor says: "It gives you more muscle. If the other side knows that cost is not a problem, they may think twice about even fighting the case."

WHO QUALIFIES FOR CIVIL LEGAL AID?

TO BE considered for civil legal aid you must show that you have reasonable grounds for taking court action. If you can, and your disposable income is below £2,425, you will qualify for help. If it is between £2,425 and £7,187 (£7,920 for personal injury) you will have to make a contribution. If your disposable income is over those figures you will not qualify. In addition, if you have disposable savings of between £3,000 and £6,750 (£8,560 for personal injury cases) you will have to make a contribution. If the savings are more, you will not qualify. Even if you qualify, if you win your case, the Legal Aid Board will seek to recover its costs from you. Until now, in assessing a person's disposable income and savings, all mortgage repayments could be deducted from income and the value of your home was not counted. However, in an announcement last week, the Lord Chancellor, taking steps to tighten up on legal aid for the "apparently wealthy", said he intended to amend the regulations. In future, any equity in a house of more than £100,000 will be taken into account as an asset, and the amount of mortgage repayments deductable from income will be limited to those borrowing £100,000, or less. Assets of relatives who "appear to be providing a significant material advantage to the applicant" may also be taken into account.

Benefit cuts will hit borrowers

Mortgage insurance warning

Tax shock for sick or jobless homeowners

The Government's embarrassing U-turn this week over the introduction of tax on mortgage payment protection insurance highlights the importance of this type insurance in an environment where the Government is slashing state benefits.

It is planning deep cuts in its £1.1 billion bill for state support for ill or out of work borrowers from October, and is trying to promote the benefits of private insurance to cover mortgages instead.

Lenders, insurers and housing advisers have repeatedly attacked the Government's plans on the ground that many of the most vulnerable borrowers will be excluded from taking out private insurance and so are more likely to get into arrears, or be repossessed.

Many have submitted highly critical comments to the social security advisory committee, which is advising Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, on the reforms. Legislation to restrict income support is expected to be on the statute books before the summer recess.

Borrowers completing on loans after the beginning of October (including people who remortgage, as well as first-time buyers) will get no help from the State for nine months if they lose their jobs. They will also get no help with housing costs, such as ground rent and service charges.

Borrowers who have existing loans (completed before October) will not get any help for the first eight weeks — and then only 50 per cent of the interest for the next 18 weeks. The Government is also proposing to calculate income support payments at a standard rate of interest, which could be below what many borrowers are paying. The Government says people should arrange their own insurance, instead of asking the State to pick up the bill.

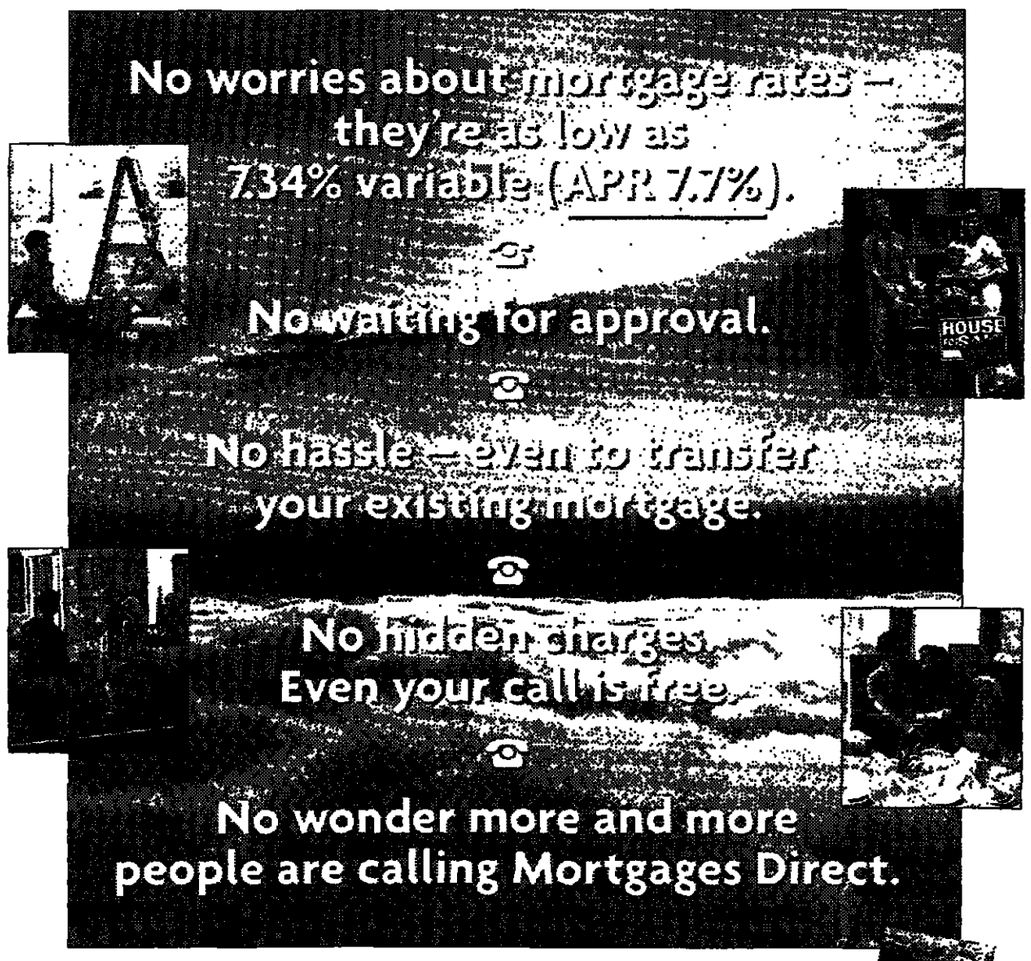
Mr Lilley believes that insurance companies will be forced to extend the categories of people they cover and the benefits they pay once more people start taking out private cover.

The companies agree that this may happen. But at present, the following groups of people will not be covered, or find it difficult to get themselves covered, according to Pinnacle Insurance, which underwrites insurance for some of the leading lenders.

- The unemployed or those working fewer than 16 hours a week;
- People under 18 or over 64 (or whatever age range the policy specifies);
- The self-employed;
- Seasonal, casual and contract workers;
- Anyone not in continuous employment for six to 12 months;
- Those with pre-existing medical conditions.

Taxing payment protection policies could have meant even those who qualify for cover getting into arrears with their loans. An insurance payment net of tax may not have been enough to cover the balance owing.

SARA MCCONNELL



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Liz Dolan checks out investing in female-friendly companies that offer equal opportunities

A question of ethics


IMAGE BANK

After years of discrimination in the workplace, the careers of women employees are now being given a positive boost by some companies

Well done Patricia Vaz, the British Telecom director who was named Veuve Clicquot's Businesswoman of the Year this week. Twenty years ago, she was a struggling BT clerical officer with a son aged eight. Now she is one of the bosses.

So was it simply a case of taking a running jump at the notorious glass ceiling and landing effortlessly on the other side? You have to suspect otherwise.

But, interestingly, British Telecom scored particularly well in a recent survey, commissioned by Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker, on companies' attitudes to their female staff, especially those with children. Boots, Amersham International and the Bank of Scotland also figured on the "best buy" list, which was compiled primarily for Sharp's ethical clients.

The broker reports a growing interest among its ethical clients, seven in ten of whom are women, in this whole area. "For many investors, particularly women, the attitude of companies to their employees may be just as important as their attitude to the environment." Of primary concern are "the problems many families face in coping with their work and care responsibilities".

The results of the survey, which were published last month, provided a much-needed list of companies that not only met basic environmental criteria, but also gave a positive boost to the careers of female employees and made it easier for both sexes to combine responsibilities at work with looking after a family.

According to Elizabeth Haigh, head of the firm's ethical investment arm: "Our research has demonstrated that there are a number of high-profile companies, such as Boots and Amersham International, with excellent practices. Other companies have some room for improvement but, as many companies say to us that improved practices are in the pipeline, we intend to monitor the position on an ongoing basis." Much of the information contained in the report is not made available to the public. Ms Haigh says: "We were given the information on a confidential basis, so we can't publish it."

This means that, while ethical clients of Albert E Sharp will be able to take advantage of the information gleaned during the survey, non-clients wishing to invest in companies with strong family-orientated policies will have to depend on the judgment and knowledge of their fund managers.

Sharp has received requests for copies of the report from several other members of the ethical investment community, including NPI and Jupiter Tyndall. It has also been contacted by academics.

Tessa Tennant, of NPI, says: "We're delighted they've gone ahead with this research. We've always felt we were contributing to the evaluation of environmental concerns, but there are a number of other areas of equal importance that need to be looked at too."

Simon Baker, head of Jupiter Tyndall's ethical investment operations, says: "I wouldn't say this was our highest priority. Ecology is our primary consideration. But it is a terribly important area and, purely from a business point of view, those keenest in investing in green areas are women."

Of 120 companies contacted by Albert E Sharp, 50 agreed to take part in the survey. Twenty-seven fell into the "good practices" category. "We found that very encouraging," Ms Haigh says. "Before this, we didn't really know whether 'family friendly' really existed. But now we know it does."

Companies with a large female workforce tended to score better than those without. Banks, while doing well on "family friendly" attitudes, often ruled themselves out on other ethical criteria, notably their treatment of lesser developed countries. The Bank of Scotland was an honourable exception on all counts.

Criteria governing "good practices" included equal opportunities policy statements, training and promotion, membership of outside ginger groups, basic attitude to the workforce, women in management, working hours, childcare and elderly care services and employment benefits.

The American experience

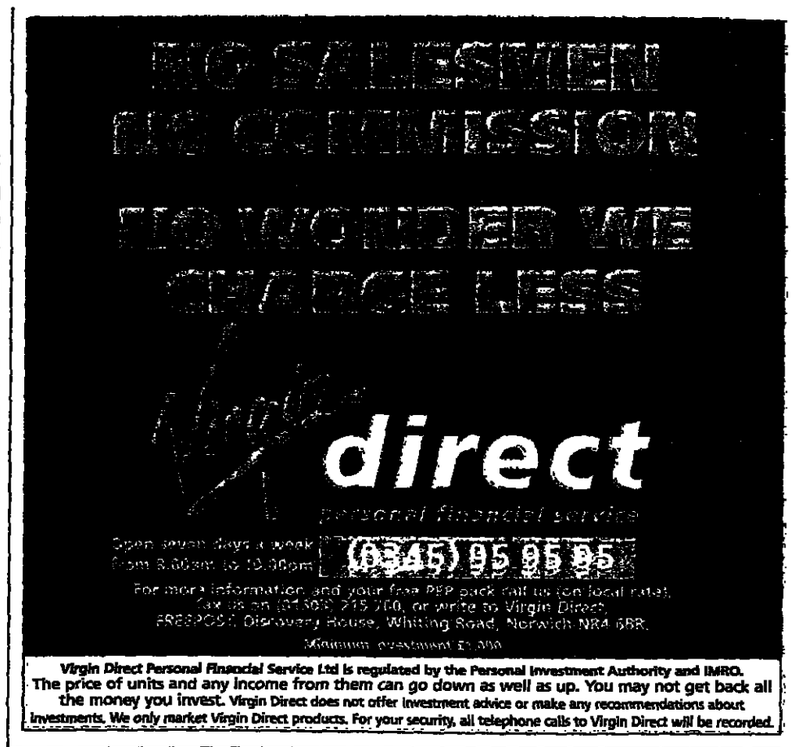
Calvert, the US investment management group, set up its ethical investment arm in 1982. From the beginning, equal employment opportunities (EEO) played an important part in the investment decision-making, according to John Lickerman, the company's director of social research.

"We carry out fairly extensive research in this area," he says. "We talk directly to companies and we send out surveys. We make sure that they comply with minimum standards at least."

Since setting up the ethical side of its business, Calvert says it has been active in a number of shareholder campaigns to improve attitudes to EEO. Most of these have involved getting firms to publish breakdowns showing what proportion of the total workforce consists of minority groups and women, and in what capacity they are employed. Under US law, all employers must give this information to the Government, but do not have to make it available to anyone else. If they apply enough pressure, however, shareholders or other interested parties can get them to publish the information. This is a practice known as EEO public disclosure.

When RR Donnelly, a Chicago-based printing concern, refused to release details of a case in which it had been accused of regularly denying promotion and salary increases to black employees, a small group of shareholders, led by United States Trust Company of Boston (USTB) and supported by Calvert, launched an intensive campaign to encourage fellow shareholders to pressurise the company into doing so. This resulted in a large vote in favour of public disclosure.

Since then, Donnelly has published regular bulletins for staff and shareholders with news of its EEO activities.



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WOOLWICH GUERNSEY

*Best International Rates, Chase de Vere. **MoneyFacts Offshore Building Society Best Buys, Investment International. Deposits made with the offices of Woolwich Guernsey Limited are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the Banking Act 1987. However, under Section 22 of the Building Societies Act 1986, all liabilities of the company are guaranteed by the Woolwich Building Society. Woolwich Guernsey Limited: Principal place of business and registered office, La Tonnelle House, Les Banques, St Peter Port, Guernsey. Tel: 01481 715 735. Registered under the Banking Supervision (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 1994. Representative office: Woolwich Building Society, Corporate Headquarters, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RR. Tel: 0181 298 5000. Paid up Share Capital and reserves exceeding £20m. Incorporated in Guernsey, registration no: 25781. Copies of the Company's most recent audited accounts available on request. A wholly owned subsidiary of the Woolwich Building Society. No deposits or withdrawals may be made through Woolwich Building Society Branches. Rates shown are correct as at 1.4.95 but are variable. Gross payment of interest is without deduction of income tax.



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Caroline Merrell and **Morag Preston** ask the experts how to invest a spare £50 or £200 a month to best advantage

Save a little extra for an easier life

For anyone with £50 a month to invest there are a number of sensible options, unless you want to handle the sum with a bit more sizzle.

All the advisers we canvassed recommended that you should properly insure your life and protect yourself against ill-health and accidents with permanent health insurance, before you start a regular savings plan.

You should also pay off debts, such as credit card borrowings. There was some support for using the money to repay your mortgage early. However, under the terms of fixed-rate and some other special-offer mortgages, early repayments are not allowed during the discounted period.

If you repay an extra £50 a month on a 25-year term £70,000 mortgage at the current Halifax variable mortgage rate of 8.35 per cent, and assuming the rate does not change, the debt would be cleared in just under 20 years.

"Paying off your mortgage early is one of the best saving plans you can have," says Chris Kirkpatrick, of Dunfords, a firm of solicitors and financial advisers based in Gloucester. "Remember that you pay your mortgage out of taxed income. This means that if your mortgage rate is 9 per cent, the return on repaying your mortgage before the end of the term is equivalent to a return on 15 per cent for a 40 per cent taxpayer, and to 12 per cent to a 25 per cent taxpayer."

It was also generally recommended that before you embark on regular savings that you should build up an emergency fund of up to £5,000 in the building society.

Your next thought should be for your old age, using the maximum tax relief available on pension contributions. These are available both to members of company schemes and to those with personal pensions. Employees can use their full 15 per cent relief by making additional voluntary contributions (AVCs).

If you are not part of an employer's AVC scheme, Dunfords suggests a free-standing AVC, with General Accident or Standard Life. The firm suggests that your contributions be split in the following ratio: 40 per cent in the with-profits fund, 30 per cent in the managed fund, and 30 per cent in the Far East funds.

Once you have covered your life, repaid your debts and prepared for your retirement, then you should start picking out a Pep, the regular savings recommendation of the majority of our advisers. But you must be prepared to make a five-year commitment. There is no capital gains tax to pay on any increase in the plan's value and no tax on the dividends.

The secret is to select a plan where the charges do not outweigh the tax benefits. The charges are the amounts that you pay to the fund managers in entry fees and annual management fees.

Although groups are increasingly moving to eliminate the initial charge, this can still be as high as 5 per cent of your investment. Our advisers' choices are listed below.

Simon Philip, of Binder Hamlyn, based in Croydon, Surrey, selected the New Saints Pep. He says: "I like it because it gives investors access to the excellently managed, broadly based, Scottish American investment trust.

Daryn Williams, of Chantrey Financial Services, a central London firm, favours high-yielding unit trusts, such as the Perpetual High Income Fund or the Newton Income Fund: "Their risk profile is somewhat lower than that of growth funds, and would be ideal for the more conservative investor."

For the more cautious investor, John Eaton, of Lupton Fawcett, a Leeds firm, recommends the Alliance Trust Pep. He cited the Pep's low charges and its wide investment brief.

Sue Durrant, of Nichols Williams Durrant & Co, another Leeds firm, suggested the Schroder UK Equity Pep. He said: "It offers a medium-risk investment in British companies and aims to provide a balance between growth of income and capital."

For the more dare-devil type of investor, she recommends the Schroder UK Enterprise Fund: "It is more aggressively managed and invests in a broad spread of UK companies with capital growth being the main objective. Like UK Equity, it has a good long-term performance."



Liquid assets: Those who do not care for stocks and shares may prefer a more liquid investment. Ron Gee, managing director of RE Gee & Co. in Shrewsbury, suggests a monthly payment scheme with a local wine merchant. He says: "Enjoy the expectation of superb future drinking. Use it to buy fine wines." Tanners Wines, also in Shrewsbury, has 12,000 customers who pay in a set amount each month. They can then spend up to four times that amount on the cellar's fine selection of wines. John Melhuish, of Tanners, says: "Our customers want to spread the cost of buying nice wines. Although there are wines we sell on which a profit can be made, we prefer our customers just to enjoy them."

Aim for a pension first

Anyone with £200 a month spare income to invest or save has a wide range of options. But our advisers were united in one view: put the money into a pension before exploring any other opportunities.

Brian Connell, manager at Grant Thornton, the financial adviser, says: "Pensions are very tax-efficient. You get tax relief at your top rate of tax on your contributions and the money in the fund rolls up tax-free. No other type of investment offers these advantages."

Employees are entitled to put up to 15 per cent of their salary tax-free into their company scheme. To use the full amount of this relief, make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs).

For personal pensions, the amount of relief available rises with age, starting at 17.5 per cent of earnings for those under 35, rising to 40 per cent for those aged 61 or over.

If you have used up your pension relief and are willing to take at least a five-year view, look at a personal equity plan (Pep), the option preferred by many of our advisers to any of the National Savings schemes, or a Tessa.

Peps are more advantageous to higher-rate taxpayers, as this group makes the maximum tax saving from this type of investment.

Most preferred unit trust Peps to investment trust Peps, some citing as their reason the "dramatic narrowing of discounts on investment trusts". This means that the prices of shares in investment trusts are no longer lower than the value of their net assets. When a trust stands at a discount, it is a bargain buy. When discount shrinks, it becomes more expensive.

Most investment and unit trust-based Pep schemes will allow you to invest through a monthly savings plan. This method has certain advantages over investing a lump sum as it irons out some of the volatility in the stock market.

When the index is falling,

> "You get tax relief at your top rate and the money in the fund rolls up tax-free"

your regular contributions buys more shares in the investment trust and more units in the unit trust, an effect known as "pound cost averaging".

Paul Boni, investment director at Berry Birch & Noble, says: "I would suggest two broadly-based funds which are well managed, with good performance and low charges. They are: the Foreign & Colonial Investment trust and the M&G Managed Growth Pep."

Andrew Oliver, technical investment director at Sedgwick Financial Services, recommends Schroders UK equity fund and the Morgan Grenfell European fund. His other suggestions were the M&G Managed fund and the Perpetual Income fund. He selected these funds because of their good performance.

Morgan Grenfell's fund has a low front-end charge and would give the Pep investor exposure to markets other than the UK.

Michael Williams, of Nichols Williams, was one of the few advisers who preferred investment trusts to unit trusts. He puts forward the broadly-based Law & Debenture investment trust because it is undervalued.

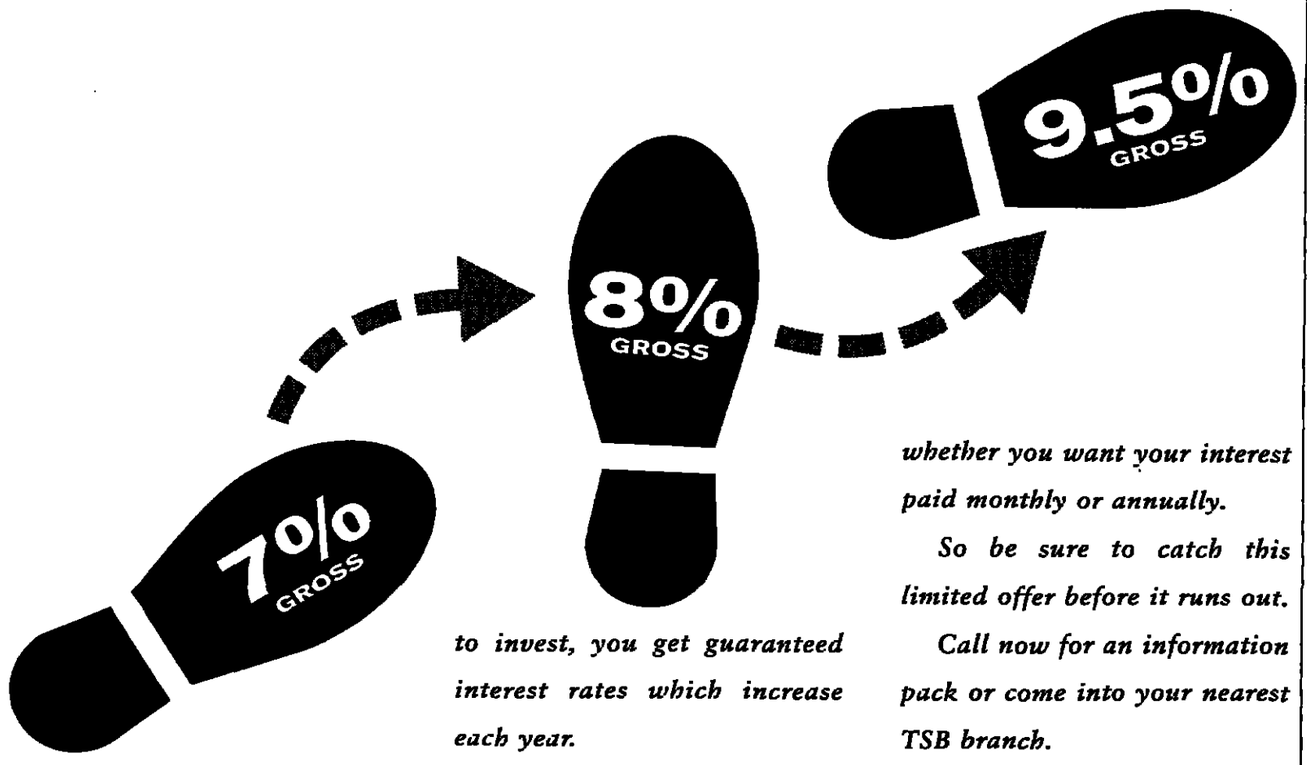
He also chose Credit Suisse's Income unit trust for its record of continuous income growth.

The various National Savings schemes, such as certificates and the various bonds, were not favoured by most of our advisers, because the rates offered are not particularly high, especially for those who want to save monthly.

But the Eighth Index-linked Issue of certificates, which pays a compound rate of 3 per cent over five years, had several enthusiasts.

Apart from interest, index-linked certificates also offer inflation-proofing. This means that if inflation over a five-year period averages 3 per cent, the return will be 6 per cent tax-free, equivalent to 8 per cent for a basic rate taxpayer and 10 per cent for a 40 per cent taxpayer.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Members deserve a little Xtra

From Mr Peter G. C. Fletcher

Sir, Further to your report (April 27) that the Leeds Permanent Building Society has spent nearly £6 million to date on its proposed merger with the Halifax, I wonder if it is appreciated how unfairly many existing members, often of some years' standing and with substantial varying balances, are being treated. Simply because they did not have at least £100 in their accounts at midnight on November 25, 1994, they are excluded from any share distribution following the conversion of the merged societies to a plc. Anyone who opened an account even a few weeks before and had a balance of £100 on the day benefits at their expense. So much for loyalty over the years.

Paradoxically, such excluded members are still being invited to vote for the merger (by post by May 15, or at meetings on May 22) and later for the conversion, even though they will get no benefits, but again providing they have a qualifying balance of at least £100 on a specified day. For the merger and subsequent conversion to succeed, a majority of 75 per cent of votes is required. Members who have been disqualified from any benefits by the November 25 £100 rule but who qualify for a vote, should cast it against both proposals unless the proposed benefits are amended to include members of at least two years' standing prior to November 25, 1994, and with an average balance of £100 in that time. Indeed, all members might justly vote accordingly.

In the meantime, members who are excluded from benefits will doubtless consider moving their balances, leaving £100 to qualify for a vote against, to another society, which may treat them more fairly in the event of a merger, conversion, or takeover, and will certainly treat them better without one. It is sad that the principle of mutual ownership which distinguished the building society movement is being distorted in the recent rush to cash in on commercial possibilities with (some) members being bribed to do so. Society resources, which belong to members anyway, would be better spent on them in the form of more advantageous interest rates for both depositors and borrowers. Effectively, the Halifax, of which I am a fully qualifying member on all counts, is swallowing up the Leeds. Members should call a halt to this expensive and fruitless exercise.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FLETCHER,
Sunny Mill, Mill Lane,
Runcton, Chichester
West Sussex.

Back in favour

From Dr R. T. Parr

Sir, Since you published my letter regarding the Cheltenham & Gloucester takeover by Lloyds Bank on April 8, we have had a hopeful letter from the Building Societies Ombudsman. This was followed by a letter from C&G reinstating my wife as eligible for the fixed and percentage payments.

We are grateful to you and the Ombudsman for your help.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. PARR,
The Barn House, Broughton,
Stockbridge, Hampshire.

Who covers the costs of mis-sold policies?

From N. A. Warren

Sir, I read with great interest "Pension mis-sellers face public humiliation" (April 21). However, it does not address the point of where the £3 billion compensation will come from. In the short term, it will be paid out by the insurance/pension companies, but this is a huge sum of money. The industry will therefore presumably wish to rebuild reserves. My fear is that the buyers of non mis-sold investments/pensions will ultimately pay through lower bonuses, or returns on their investments. If this is the case, then the cautious, or well-informed investor, will be bailing out the gullible investor and the reckless salesperson.

Given that I have a number of investments with such companies, how confident can I be that those funds will not be depleted to pay for the errors of others?

Yours sincerely,
N. A WARREN,
149a Malden Road,
Colchester, Essex.

Ernie foots the bill

From Mr Ronald Severn

Sir, A dear friend of ours pays for the upkeep of her parents' grave, which is in a cemetery opposite Ernie. She holds Premium Bonds, but had never won a prize. Not long ago, on a visit to the grave, she murmured: "Come on Mum and Dad, give Ernie a kick for me."

To her great amusement and delight, shortly after this she had a bond prize of £50. And a few days after that she got the bill for the upkeep of the grave — £49.50.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD SEVERN,
1 Emerson Court,
Wimbledon Hill Road, SW19.

Winner and losers

From Mr K. W. Mieszkis

Sir, I would like National Savings to say what the running costs of the weekly Premium Bond draws are compared with the monthly draw. My guess is that they are equal. National Savings, therefore, is making a substantial saving by having only 12 draws a year. But bond owners have the chance of winning prizes reduced. Who is the winner?

Yours sincerely,
K. W. MIESZKIS,
84 Hereford Road,
Monmouth, Gwent.

Weekend Money Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082.

Open house for a fee

Conal Gregory on how to cut the cost of visiting an historic house



Spring is when most of the nation's historic houses, castles and gardens open their doors for business. But, as many people will have discovered, a visit to two or three sites during the year can cost more than an annual subscription to a heritage organisation. Membership to one of the smaller bodies often carries the right to reduced-price entry to the properties controlled by the larger organisations, such as the National Trust.

English Heritage, Cadw (for Wales) and Historic Scotland together safeguard about 830 state-owned ancient monuments in mainland Britain. For £15 a year, Cadw members gain access to all properties in Wales, plus half-price admission throughout the rest of Great Britain. By comparison, Historic Scotland charges £17 and English Heritage £18.50. Cadw is even better value in the second year, when the subscription falls to £13, and free entry extends outside Wales.

For those seeking life membership, Historic Scotland scores with a fee of just £200, compared with £220 for Cadw, and £365 for English Heritage. Each lifetime fee usually entitles the holder to take another adult, or two children, into sites free of charge.

The National Trust itself charges £25 annually (£46 for a family), or £600 for life. The National Trust for Scotland charges £24 annually, or £480 for life membership. It has more than 100 sites in Scotland, and membership also includes free entry to the English, Welsh and Northern Ireland properties.

The best deals for people of 60, or over, include Historic Scotland's senior citizen membership rate of £11 a year. Cadw's special rate for older people falls in the second year from £12 to £10. Older people also score with Historic Scotland's special lifetime rate of £100. The National Trust in Edinburgh charges an annual fee of £12, and a lifetime rate of £240, compared with £18 and £390 in London.

Under-23s can join the National Trust for Scotland for £10. Under-21s pay £11 with Historic Scotland, or £12 with Cadw, with the latter's rate falling to £10 in the second year. English Heritage offers under-16s a special £9 rate.

An annual "Royal Pass" to the five outstanding properties run by Historic Royal Palaces — an agency of the Department of National Heritage — costs £18 and saves £5 on admission. These include Hampton Court and the Tower of London.

The Historic Houses Association, which takes in 280 independently owned properties, including Castle Howard, also offers a good discount to members. For an individual the cost is £24, for a couple £36, and just £10 for anyone else at the same address.

The National Trust for Jersey charges £8 annually and £4 per child in full-time education. The National Trust of Guernsey is even better value at £6 per person, £10 per couple and £100 for life membership. Life membership of the Friends of Manx National Heritage, based on the Isle of Man, costs only £75. Full reciprocal admission is granted to the rest of the UK, but you need an island address.

WHERE TO GO

Cadw: 01222 465511; English Heritage: 0171-973 3434; Historic Scotland: 0131-668 8999; Historic Houses Association: 0171-259 5688; The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty: 0171-222 9251; The National Trust for Scotland: 0131-226 5922; The National Trust for Jersey: 01534 483193; Friends of Manx National Heritage: 01624 675522.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Money tips for holidaymakers

WHETHER you want to buy a sombrero or a daiquiri, the practicalities of foreign currency ought not to take the fun out of your holiday. *Summer Holiday Money Guide*, published by Visa, includes financial information on Britons' top ten destinations. The number of cash machines accepting Visa cards, bank and shop opening hours, and best shopping buys are included in the free 45-page pocket guide. Emergency telephone numbers are also listed. Practical advice is also given on how to use and look after cards and traveller's cheques. Call 0171-231 5432, or write to PO Box 4648, London, SE1 3YF.

■ Vacation Work's series, *Live & Work*, could be of comfort to the more zealous adventurer. The series looks at finding a job, starting a business, or settling overseas. Moving outside the European Union, the series now covers the US and Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as Scandinavia. Divided into neat sections, the books cover entry regulations, setting up home, daily life and employment. Using industry reports and personal case histories, the series provides a useful introduction to the business structure of a new area. Published on May 15 at £8.95 a copy, the series will be available at bookshops. You may also order by calling 01865 790885, paying an additional £1.50 per title for postage and packing.

■ *Perfectly Legal Tax Loopholes*, published by Piatkus Books, summarises tax rules and advises on how to make savings. Written by Stephen Courtney, an accountant, the book covers family and business tax, capital gains tax and inheritance tax. The 195-page book costs £15.99. It is available at most bookshops, or telephone 0171-631 0710.

■ National Pet Week, running from April 29 until May 8, brings good news for cat and dog owners. Jardine Pet Insurances has launched Moggies & Mongrels, a pet insurance scheme designed especially for pets without pedigrees. There is no age limit for taking out a new policy, but a certificate of health is needed for dogs that are more than eight years' old and cats over ten. It also offers a choice of monthly or annual premiums. Telephone 0121-626 7890.

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Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Yly
B&W Asset 0800 303330	Instant Acc	Postal	£10,000	6.45	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.70	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Fixed Rate Bond	31.5.99	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly
Woolwich BS 0800 400900	2 Year Fixed	2yr bond	£500	8.00	F/Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500	Investmnt Certs	5yr bond	£1,000	8.60	F/Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	3 Year Fixed	31.3.98	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500		5 year	£8,300	8.50	F/Yly
Hinckley & Rugby BS 0800 774499		5 year	£3,000 A	7.65	Yly
Market Harborough BS 01858 463244		5 year	£9,000	7.75	Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£500	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	18.90%	£10 E

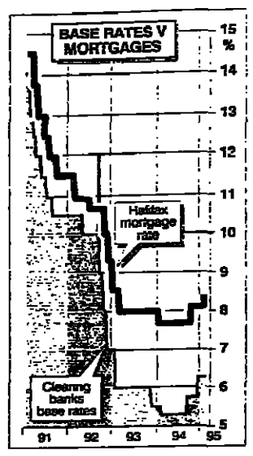
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

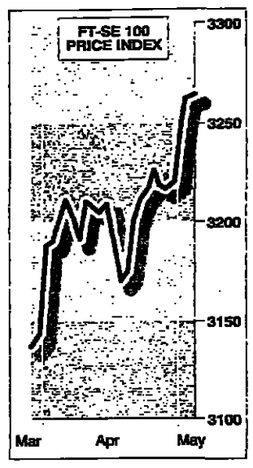
	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland Bank 0345 160180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Abbey National 01908 690140	16.9%	£117.41	£105.05

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

*** RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 500 665)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* ₆	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* ₆	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253768151
First Opt Bond₄	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†₅	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond₅ ₆	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†₅	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 ₆	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000₅	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 pt of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 * Additional bridge up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₄Guaranteed when held for 5 years reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₄Guaranteed when held for 5 years ₅0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ₆£40,000 pt in addition to 51 holdings ₆Taxable but tied in full

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equit Life.....Level		£10,599	£11,645	£12,984
Can Life Level		£10,411	£11,570	£13,140
Sn Life Ca Level		£10,547	£11,581	£12,942
MGM Asmce.....Level		£10,659	£11,715	£13,161
Generali Level		£10,692	£11,706	£13,032
SINGLE LIFE	**Female:**	**Age 60**	**Age 65**	**Age 70**
Nrch Union.....Level		£9,922	£10,641	£11,714
Royal Life Level		£9,668	£10,511	£11,731
Sn Life Ca Level		£9,662	£10,433	£11,521
Generali Level		£9,805	£10,636	£11,792
MGM Asmce.....Level		£9,927	£10,670	£11,779
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	**Male:**	**Age 60**	**Age 65**	**Age 70**
	Female:	**Age 55**	**Age 60**	**Age 65**
Nrwch Uni Level		£9,606	£10,143	£10,924
Sn Life Ca Level		£9,298	£9,8840	£10,705
Royal Life Level		£9,238	£9,8680	£10,773
MGM Asmce.....Level		£9,621	£10,226	£11,095
Generali Level		£9,463	£10,067	£10,906

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 375 1175)

Compiled by: Morag Preston

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at May 3 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.50
	5,000	AIG Life	6.00
	50,000	AIG Life	6.25
	100,000	AIG Life	6.30
2 Years			
	3,000	Gan Life	5.20
	5,000	AIG Life	6.35
	50,000	AIG Life	6.45
	100,000	AIG Life	6.50
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.70
	3,000	Eurolife	6.70
	5,000	Eurolife	6.80
	10,000	Eurolife	6.90
	25,000	Eurolife	7.00
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	6.40
	50,000	GAN Life	6.50
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	6.50
	3,000	Eurolife	7.20
	5,000	Eurolife	7.30
	10,000	Eurolife	7.40
	25,000	Eurolife	7.50

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 01225 483636. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	90.00	10.406	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	113.25	10.261	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	126.00	10.305	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	127.50	10.477	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	123.50	10.520	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	117.50	9.991	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	115.25	10.500	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	105.00	11.190	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	88.25	9.908	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	119.00	9.948	100.26	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	136.50	9.967	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	127.50	10.462	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	102.875	10.447	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	122.75	10.270	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	122.00	10.342	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	122.00	10.547	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.6750%	103.00	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	9.50156%	100.50	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171-601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Natnl & Provincial 01274 733444	2.95	neg	90	5.5% discount for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	2.95	neg	80	5.49% discount for 12 months
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.7.96
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 555100	2.99	neg	75	5.35% discount to 30.6.96
Lloyds Local branch	3.60	£60k+	60	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.00	to £100k	95	7.45%dsic-6m 2%disc-6mnths .5%disc-12mnths
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	1.25	to £150k	70	7.14% disc-9mns
Yorkshire 0800 378 836	1.44	£25-£150k	95	7% disc-6 mnths 3% disc-6 mnths
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	20-145k	85	7.51% discount to 1.1.96
Ulster Bank 0800 282062	1.39	£10k+	95	7.00% discount to 1.11.95

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley&Rugby 0455 251 234	1.25	to 150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 mnths
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£30k+	75	5.30% discount for 12 mnths
Skipton 0800 590545	2.29	to £150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Abbey National 0131 556 8555	3.15	neg	75	5.19% discount to 30.6.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.60	£60K+	95	4.75% for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT LINKED INSURANCE/INVESTMENTS

AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 539 8500

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	463.40	490.40	+ 1.70	...
UK Equity	584.70	618.80	+ 5.00	...
Property	491.70	520.40	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Interest	319.40	338.00	+ 4.20	...
Money	254.20	269.10	+ 0.30	...
International	381.40	403.60	+ 4.30	...

ABBEY LIFE
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292375

Property Fd Inc	278.60	293.30	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc	526.20	553.90	- 0.30	...
Equity Fd Inc	175.40	184.70	+ 1.60	0.0
-do- Acc	233.80	246.20	+ 2.00	0.0
Selective Fd	501.40	527.80	+ 3.50	0.0
Money Fd	383.80	404.10	- 0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	410.20	431.80	- 0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	222.30	234.00	+ 1.50	...
Man Ser 4	671.40	706.80	+ 4.90	0.0
Conv Ser 4	333.40	351.00	- 0.20	...
Money Ser 4	343.00	361.00	- 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	350.50	369.00	+ 1.80	0.0
American Ser 4	489.70	515.50	+ 5.60	0.0
High Inc Ser 4	689.30	725.60	+ 6.30	0.0
Indexed Inv Ser 4	214.40	225.70	+ 2.60	0.0
Japan Ser 4	348.00	366.40	+ 5.50	0.0

ALBANY LIFE
3 Darles Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311

Equity Fd Acc	£15.60	£16.42	+17.30	...
European Fd Acc	380.00	399.90	+ 8.80	...
Fixed Int Acc	511.40	538.30	+ 2.70	...
Gld Money Acc	339.40	357.30	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	607.30	639.20	+ 7.40	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	376.30	396.00	+ 2.00	...
Japan Fund	290.10	272.70	+ 8.70	...
N American Acc	324.70	341.80	+ 2.50	...
Prop Fd Acc	445.70	469.10	+ 0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	£10.33	£10.98	+11.80	...

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514

Fxd Int Dep Acc	378.30	398.30	+ 0.30	7%
Equity Acc	£14.29	£15.03	+16.30	...
Property Acc	586.60	617.50	+ 0.50	...
Far East Acc	303.50	319.50	+ 8.20	...
Managed Capital	530.80	558.80	+ 4.10	...
-do- Acc	£4.95	£11.53	+10.90	...
Overseas Acc	958.30	£10.08	+ 8.50	...
Gilt Edged Acc	487.30	513.00	+ 0.40	...
Amer Equity Acc	813.40	856.30	+15.30	...
Amer Man Acc	344.30	362.50	+ 4.70	...
Amer Prop Acc	113.60	119.90	+ 0.50	...

AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463

Reserve Ser 6	160.50	168.90	+ 0.80	...
Balced Ser 6	726.10	764.30	+ 5.00	...
Opportunity Ser 6	165.70	174.40	+ 2.30	...
Distribution Ser 6	98.60	103.70	+ 0.60	7.07
UK Equities Ser 6	£10.07	£10.60	+ 0.20	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	£10.62	£11.17	+ 3.50	...
North Amer Ser 6	454.10	477.90	+ 1.50	...
Far East Ser 6	947.40	997.20	+ 5.50	...
Europe Ser 6	391.60	412.20	+ 9.30	...
Intnl Ser 6	571.10	601.10	+ 5.70	...
Property Ser 6	557.10	586.40	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	443.10	466.30	+ 2.80	...
Ind-Linkd Sec 56	183.40	193.00	+ 1.80	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	300.70	316.50	+ 0.30	...

BARCLAYS LIFE
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5944

Equity Acc	856.00	901.10	+ 8.20	...
-do- Initial	557.20	586.60	+ 5.30	...
Gilt Edged Acc	786.40	828.00	+ 2.30	...
-do- Initial	253.80	267.20	+ 1.60	...
International Acc	399.10	420.20	+ 7.30	...
-do- Initial	260.40	274.20	+ 4.80	...
Managed Acc	529.00	557.10	+ 0.90	...
-do- Initial	345.80	364.00	+ 3.90	...
Money Acc	295.40	311.00	- 0.20	...
Property Acc	300.20	322.40	...	...
-do- Initial	195.80	210.00	- 0.30	...
America Acc	280.90	295.30	+ 2.30	...
Australia Acc	209.30	220.40	+ 4.90	...
Financial Acc	339.10	357.00	+ 3.60	...
500 Accum	477.30	502.40	+ 3.10	...
Japan Gntd Acc	326.80	344.00	+ 8.10	...
Income Acc	533.30	550.90	+ 4.30	...
Leisure Acc	238.90	251.50	+ 3.00	...
Special Sits Acc	277.20	291.80	+ 3.60	...
Unit Trust Acc	166.10	168.60	+ 3.00	...

BLACK HORSE LIFE
Maundeson House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000

The Managed Fd	620.34	620.34	+ 9.37	...
Income Fund	781.48	822.62	+ 9.78	...
Extra Income	707.65	744.90	+ 8.48	...
Worldwide Gth	481.75	507.11	+ 6.36	...
Balanced Fund	677.99	713.68	+ 7.56	...
Smlr Cos Recov	699.39	736.20	+17.15	...
N Amer & Genrl	351.23	369.72	+ 3.13	...
Pacific Basin	389.83	410.35	+ 9.07	...
German Growth	241.20	253.90	+ 2.02	...
Japan Growth	193.88	192.56	+ 2.30	...
The UK Gth Fd	213.07	224.28	+ 2.60	...
Genrl Euro Gth	140.04	147.42	+ 2.17	...
Property Fund	411.96	433.65	+ 0.45	...
Fixed Interest	308.68	324.93	+ 0.79	...
Cash Fund	287.86	302.70	+ 0.36	...
Managed Inv	406.10	427.52	+ 1.09	...
Nth Amer Recov	231 10	243.27	+ 1.92	...
Abbrus Fund				
Managed Gth	501.99	528.42	+ 1.69	...

BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE
PO Box 31, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 635000

Measured Perf	158.60	167.80	+ 2.00	...
Performance Plus	157.50	166.80	+ 2.90	...
With Profit Perf	174.60	184 70	+ 0.20	...
UK Opportunity	179.70	190 10	+ 0.90	...
Euro Opportunity	222.30	235.10	+ 5.00	...
North Amer Opp	161.90	171.30	...	...
Far East Opp	181.50	192.00	+ 3.80	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	127.60	134.30	+ 2.30	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	177.50	187.80	+ 1.90	...
Fixed Int	191 00	202.10	+ 1.10	...
Cash	158.60	167.80	+ 0.10	...
Overseas	181.50	192.00	+ 3.20	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	333.70	351.30	+ 5.30	...
UK Equity	574.30	604.60	+ 4.90	...
Property	257.60	271.20	+ 0.20	...
Money Market	259.60	269.10	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	298.50	314.30	+ 5.30	...
Japan	359 90	378.90	+ 5.30	...
North America	151.60	159.60	+ 1.60	...
International	283.30	298.30	+ 5.80	...
European	288.50	303.70	+ 6.50	...
Far East	128.30	135.10	+ 3.10	...

CANADA LIFE
24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122

Equity Growth	127.80	...	...	...
Managed	327.30	344.50	+ 4.10	...
Property	238.40	251.00	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	242.40	255.20	+ 1.30	...
Equity	364.90	384.20	+ 6.00	...
Cash	221 10	232.80	...	...
CLife Euro Mgd	384 60	404 90	+ 8.10	...
CLife Intl Fd	342.20	360.30	+ 4.50	...

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU, 01908 606101

Property Fund	168.00	176.90	- 0.20	...
Managed Fund	607.20	639.20	+ 8.90	...
Equity Fund	349.60	368.00	+ 5.80	...

CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566

Assurance Funds	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Sapphire Mixed	287.40	302.60	+ 3.20	...
Ruby	170.90	179.80	+ 2.50	...
Emerald	148.70	154.50	+ 0.70	...
Equity	328.10	345.40	+ 4.70	...
Property	234.00	246.40	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	204.20	215.00	+ 1.00	...
Indexed Sees	171.00	180.00	+ 1.80	...
Cash	190.10	200.20	+ 0.10	...
Nth American	227.40	239.40	+ 1.20	...
Far East	308 90	325.20	+ 5.80	...
International	239.60	252.30	+ 3.60	...
Japan Smaller	482.60	508.00	+17.20	...
Singapore & Mal	374.60	394.30	+ 5.90	...
Smaller Cos	403.80	425.30	+ 3.00	...
Tokyo Fund	695.40	732.00	+ 9.00	...
UK Equity	587.60	618.50	+ 5.20	...
CCM Vangd Mg	751.90	791.40	+ 7.40	...

GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567

GT Plan Far East	309.30	325.60	+ 9.40	...
GT Plan Wwide	469.20	493.90	+ 7.20	...

GAN LIFE & PENSIONS
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262

Portfolio Acc	691.10	691.10	+ 6.10	...
-do- Inv A	691.10	727.50	+ 6.40	...
UK Equity	412.80	434.60	+ 3.20	...
Gilt Plus	*223.20*	*214.00*	+ *1.70*	...
Managed	307.50	323 70	+ 2.90	...

GENERAL ACCIDENT
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982

Managed	212.30	223.30	+ 2.20	...
Unitised Profit	140.50	147 80	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	226.60	301.50	+ 2.30	...
Fixed Int	194.20	204.30	+ 1.00	...
Index-Linked	167.00	175 70	+ 2.10	...
Cash Deposit	176.60	185 70	+ 0.10	...
Property	191.30	201 20	+ 0.10	...
International	174.20	183.30	+ 3.40	...
American	163 10	171.60	+ 2.40	...
Japan	249.20	262.20	+ 4.30	...
Japan Smllr Cos	255.20	268.50	+ 4.40	...
European	189 80	199 70	+ 4.00	...
Pacific Fund	270.50	284.70	+ 5.90	...
Conv Life	126.00	132.50	+ 0.90	...

For General Portfolio see Gan

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE
Royal Exchange, London EC3. 0171 283 7101

Am Prop Fds	429.00	462.50	...	...
Managed Initial	458.20	482.40	+ 4.80	...
-do- Acc	659 70	694 40	+ 7.20	...
Equity Initial	686 40	722.50	+ 6.10	...
-do- Acc	988.00	1,040	+ 9.30	...
Fixed Int Initial	440.50	463.70	+ 2.10	...
-do- Acc	634.10	667.50	+ 3.40	...
Intl Initial	449.80	473.50	+ 6.80	...
-do- Acc	647.50	681.50	+10.10	...
Nth Amer Initial	177 90	187.30	+ 3.30	...
-do- Acc	233 10	245 40	+ 5.20	...
Pacific Initial	237.70	250.30	+ 2.70	...
-do- Acc	308.50	324.70	+ 3.70	...
Property Initial	181.30	190 90	...	...
-do- Acc	260.90	274.60	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initial	160.80	169.30	+ 2.20	...
-do- Acc	210.70	221.80	+ 3.00	...
Deposit Initial	198.90	209.30	...	...
-do- Acc	286.20	301 30	+ 0.20	...
Euro Initial	108.50	114.20	+ 2.60	...
-do- Acc	131.30	138.20	+ 3.20	...

HALIFAX LIFE LTD
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611118

Life Funds	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Foundation	25.09	26.38	+ 0.15	...
Balanced	25.56	26.90	+ 0.28	...
Opportunity	25.38	26.72	+ 0.33	...
Deposit	23.98	25.24	+ 0.05	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation	25.24	25.67	+ 0.70	...
Balanced	25.70	27.06	+ 0.33	...
Opportunity	25.39	26.73	+ 0.26	...
Deposit	24.07	25.34	+ 0.03	...

HAMBRO ASSURED
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 940000

Managed	168 70	177.50	+ 2.00	...
-do- Pens	207.10	218.00	+ 2.90	...
UK Equity	172.50	181.50	+ 2.40	...
-do- Pens	198.50	208.90	+ 3.60	...
International	148.00	155.70	+ 2.50	...
-do- Pens	161.30	169.70	+ 2.60	...
Deposit	141 40	148.80	+ 0.40	...
-do- Pens	168.00	176.80	+ 0.10	...

HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757

UK Equity Fd	357.60	380.50	+ 3.70	...
North America	342.90	364.80	+ 2.00	...
Far East Fund	585 90	623.40	+ 9.10	...
Global Managed	464.60	494.30	+ 5.80	...
Deposit Fund	232.30	244.60	+ 0.20	...
Prime Residential	139.20	146.60	+ 0 50	...
European Fund	266.00	283 70	+ 5 60	...
Fixed Interest	62.10	66.00	+ 0.70	...

HILL SAMUEL LIFE
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355

Security Fund	518.10	548.30	+ 6.60	...
British Fund	522.80	553.00	+ 0.90	...
International	545.80	577.60	+ 3.50	...
Dollar Fund	388.30	410.90	+ 4.20	...
Capital Fund	487.90	516.30	+ 5.90	...
Income Fund	703.30	744.30	+ 9.20	...
Property Series A	467.20	494.40	+ 3.90	4.50
Property Units	471.30	810.80	+ 4.60	...
Financial Fund	590.70	625.10	+ 8.80	...
Managed Ser A	548.00	579.90	+ 8.70	...
Managed Units	982.20	£10.33	+15.60	...
High Yield Fund	650.60	688.50	+ 4.10	...
Money Series A	295.00	310.10	+ 0.20	...
Money Units	388.80	409.30	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	622.20	658.50	+ 7.70	...
Fixed Interest	365 90	387.20	+ 0.30	...
Indexed Sees	188 40	199.30	+ 1.30	...
European Fund	742.60	785 90	+16.20	...
Natural Res	291 10	308.10	+ 6.60	...
Far East Fund	652.20	690.20	+ 6.30	...
Smaller Cos	493.20	522.00	+12.60	...
Special Sits	454.60	481.10	+ 6.10	...
Man Currency	267.30	282.90	+ 2.10	...
Japanese Tech	285.20	301 80	+ 2.40	...
Us Smaller Cos	253.00	267 80	+ 0.30	...

IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3TF. 01727 45181

Global Managed	572.20	602.30	+ 5.80	...
Global Property	299 90	315 70	...	...
Global Fixed Int	512.50	539.50	+ 2.30	...
Global Equity	614.50	646.80	+ 7.00	...
Global Cash	216.90	228.30	...	...

LAURENTIAN LIFE
Barrowood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371

Property	490.30	516.10	+ 0.50	...
Managed	415.50	437.30	+ 4.70	...
American	415 70	437.50	+ 4.30	...
UK Equity Fd	649.30	472.90	+ 5.10	...
Japan	196.50	206.80	+ 2.40	...
Index-Lkd	186.40	196.20	+ 2.00	...
High Yield	855 40	900.40	+11.00	...
Money	289.30	304.50	+ 0.40	...
International	390.90	411 40	+ 5.80	...
Henderson Active	*209.60*	*219.90*	+ *3.30*	...
Perpetual Active				

نقلاً عن الأصل

Subdued end to the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492	413	Abbey Nat	485	- 2	4.8	9.4
265	250	Allied Irish	260	- 5	4.7	13.6
247	196	Aus. New Z	232	- 7	3.6	8.5
3154	2514	Bank America	3084½	+ 18½	-	8.7
2800	1910	Bank Scotland	2150	- 1	3.4	9.5
865	2457	Barclays	2640	- 7	4.1	8.9
342	288	Bk of Ireland	342	+ 1	4.2	9.9
490	418	Cater Allen	490	+ 2	7.2	10.1
3012½	2650	Citicorp	3012½	+ 87½	-	-
265	219	Close Bros	262	- 2	3.7	12.0
2154½	1125½	Commercial	2154½	+ 149½	-	-
1337½	1001	Del Intl Bank Y	1328½	+ 3½	0.5	-
2317½	1882	Deutsche Bk	2307½	+ 287½	2.4	-
675	612½	Exeter Bank	675	+ 9½	9.6	-
1545	1182½	Fuji Bank Y	1536½	+ 9½	0.8	9.8
1000	895	Gerrard Nat	1000	+ 5	6.6	13.1
253	195	Hambros	211	+ 4	8.9	13.8
2560	2078	HSBC Hld	2437½	+ 2	4.5	9.4
2489½	2028	HSBC Hldg	2489½	+ 2½	2.6	-
1625½	1381	Hanco Scotlnd	1561½	+ ½	7.2	10.8

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

ABI UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 259 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gridlock Amer	164.70	174.30	+ 1.80	0.21
Gridlock Equity	297.50	282.70†	+ 7.20	0.14
Gridlock Euro	211.30	223.60†	+ 4.30	0.42
Gridlock Exp Sit	111.90	118.00		2.68
Gridlock Gilt	74.23	76.53	+ 0.45	5.23
Gridlock Japan	158.80	168.00	+ 2.40	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01200 553 231

Extrest Acc	551.60	586.90†	+ 5.80	2.83
General Inc	480.90	511.70†	+ 5.10	2.65
UK Growth Acc	370.30	394.00†	+ 3.90	2.96
Uk Growth Inc	350.40	366.40†	+ 2.60	2.96
Higher Inc Acc	685.60	729.40†	+ 4.90	4.14
Higher Inc Inc	389.10	414.00†	+ 2.80	4.14
Gric/Fed Int Acc	189.10	199.70	+ 1.00	5.92
Gric/Fed Int Inc	89.73	94.25	+ 0.47	5.92
Nth America	267.40	284.50†	+ 0.80	
Eurocet	285.80	303.90†	+ 2.50	0.62
Int Exempt	73.51	78.35†	+ 0.18	3.08
Int Fixtrists Acc	102.60	109.40†	+ 0.67	4.80
Int Fixtrists Inc	73.73	78.44†	+ 0.43	4.80
Global Opps	66.45	91.97†	+ 1.29	0.37
Ballanced Acc	54.94	58.45†	+ 0.47	3.11
Balanced Inc	53.24	56.64†	+ 0.46	3.11
Japan Acc	47.36	50.41	+ 0.55	
Pac/Exam Acc	343.80	365.80†	+ 5.10	0.99

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

High Income				
Gric. & Fixed Int	128.30	136.20	+ 0.90	7.34
High Inc Equity	161.40	172.60†	+ 2.00	4.56
Yield Sweet Bond	274.80	291.40†	+ 0.40	4.46
Capital Growth				
American Growth	282.80	302.90	+ 4.90	1.05
Asian Pacific	299.30	307.70	+ 2.40	
Access & Earnings	260.90	277.60†	+ 0.80	2.99
Comdty & Energy	96.17	166.90†	+ 1.40	1.5
Euro Capital Inc	139.80	148.40†	+ 1.00	1.65
Accorn Unitsd	148.90	158.20	+ 4.10	4.15
General	235.60	250.60	+ 1.60	2.17
Japan	118.30	127.60	+ 2.40	
Mastertrust	140.30	149.00†	+ 2.50	7.89
Uk Growth Dist	116.00	124.10†	+ 3.10	3.10
US Emerging Cos	129.00	137.20	+ 0.40	
Income & Growth	364.60	409.20	+ 3.70	3.05
Eurocet	69.65	71.10	+ 0.55	2.94
International	112.60	119.80	+ 1.50	1.89
Dividend & Growth	60.64	64.72	+ 0.81	4.34
Global Earth & Sec	67.64	72.16	+ 0.16	2.70

ASHERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

Uk Small Cos	£16.90	£17.66	+20.00	

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 500

Amer Inc & Growth	46.35	47.10†	+ 0.46	0.65
Cash	50.37	50.37	+ 0.03	5.81
Emerging Mkts	65.16	68.87	+ 1.34	0.05
European	115.40	120.60	+ 2.90	
Exempt	956.30	£10.21†	+10.70	1.82
Extra Income	45.00	46.15	+ 0.57	9.26
Far East Emrg Eon	107.10	113.70	+ 2.00	0.55
Fixed Interest	31.87	33.55†	+ 0.07	7.98
Fund Inv Tst	158.10	166.40†	+ 2.90	9.35
Japan	183.10	192.40	+ 2.60	
Latin American	50.54	53.04	+ 0.84	0.92
Pacific	70.83	74.64†	+ 1.24	0.35
Property Share	89.57	92.53	+ 0.53	2.18
UK Emerging Cos	61.37	64.42†	+ 1.01	1.92
UK Growth	43.86	46.47†	+ 0.47	2.53
Aber World Port	71.00	72.20†	+ 0.38	2.27
Ethical	64.67	64.67	+ 0.10	2.64
Aberdeen Gilt Inc	49.37	49.37	+ 0.10	7.60

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 549 9292

British Growth	68.40	72.27	- 0.99	3.00
British Income	79.55	83.95	- 0.35	3.79
Select Portfolio	85.17	90.60	- 1.23	

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Amity Income	74.08	78.80	+ 0.70	2.63
Income Builder Inc	69.13	73.54	+ 0.62	2.98

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 610 356 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	202.40	218.40†	+ 3.90	3.14
Capital	406.10	436.30†	+ 5.00	1.39
Balanced	686.60	733.90†	+ 8.10	2.71
Accumulator	£12.71	£13.58	+19.00	2.99
Income Trusts				
American Income	48.62	52.18	- 0.89	3.41
High Income	395.20	422.40	+ 5.60	3.66
Equity Income	222.50	237.80	+ 3.60	3.50
High Yield	237.10	253.40†	+ 3.00	3.43
Govt Securities	32.63	34.45†	+ 0.19	6.15
International Trusts				
Iberia Spec Sits	152.70	163.20†	+ 3.40	0.43
European Growth	35.44	37.80	- 1.06	0.01
International	157.40	168.20†	+ 3.10	0.20
Japan	194.50	207.30†	+ 2.40	3.01
Pacific	364.70	389.80	+ 1.90	0.01
Socs of America	438.40	467.80†	+10.70	0.49
Private Asset Mgt	47.50	50.77	- 0.86	0.24
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	526.40	562.70	+ 7.90	2.27
Cons & Gilt	42.29	45.21	+ 0.34	5.19
Smaller Cos	165.60	177.00	+ 1.90	1.25
2nd Smaller Cos	156.60	167.40	+ 2.00	1.45
Recovery	137.20	146.60†	+ 1.70	1.79
Met Min & City	146.80	156.90†	+ 1.40	0.76
Gross Earnings	362.20	378.60†	+ 5.90	1.79
Technology	166.70	178.20	+ 2.00	0.01
UK Special Sits	467.50	499.70	+ 5.90	1.72

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01250 526 911

Cntrntl Gal Perc	98.53	103.40	+ 0.59	3.04
Foundtn Perpl Pens	61.30	63.66	+ 0.34	1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0633

Capital	71.51	76.07	+ 0.85	2.13
International	62.60	66.60	- 1.08	

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

Amerinc -	252.10	271.10	- 2.50	
Bond	112.20	118.10†	+ 2.00	6.94
Brit Smlr Cos	98.70	105.00	+ 1.40	1.79
Conv & Gen	63.64	67.70†	- 0.76	5.81
Europe	224.40	239.20	+ 2.10	0.3
Exp Smlr Cos	96.91	106.30	+ 2.50	60
Income Gwth	336.50	358.00	+ 2.00	4.31
Japan	305.60	324.70	+ 5.60	
Latin American	66.15	70.37	+ 1.43	
Pacific	70.83	74.64†	+ 1.24	0.35
Property Share	89.57	92.53	+ 0.53	2.18
UK Emerging Cos	61.37	64.42†	+ 1.01	1.92
UK Growth	43.86	46.47†	+ 0.47	2.53
Worldwide Inc	71.00	72.20†	+ 0.38	2.27
Ethical	64.67	64.67	+ 0.10	2.64
Aberdeen Gilt Inc	49.37	49.37	+ 0.10	7.60

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 534 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Blst Ut Pl Inc	342.40	356.70†	+ 3.70	3.6
European Bd Inc	90.22	95.52	+ 0.75	7.68
Exempt	72.71	77.56†	+ 0.48	4.35
Financial	75.39	80.65	- 0.80	2.79
500.0	436.20	466.50	+ 5.00	2.71
General	271.40	290.60†	+ 3.50	2.90
Property	345.10	368.40	+ 3.80	6.53
Trustnd	182.40	194.90	+ 2.50	2.52
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.40	100.40†	- 0.10	5.32
Extra Income	116.40	124.50†	+ 1.40	4.26
Gilt & Fxd Int	87.10	58.02	+ 0.53	8.62
Income	516.20	554.30	+ 5.00	4.08
Income Builder	81.53	85.45	+ 0.56	4.90 -
Intl Income	81.19	85.10	+ 0.61	3.71
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	117.90	125.70	+ 1.20	2.69
Leisure	125.50	134.20	+ 1.80	1.57
Recovery	418.40	447.50	+ 5.80	2.90
Smlr Cos Inc	43.72	46.80	+ 0.95	2.37
Special Sits	281.90	301.50	+ 2.50	1.82
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	126.00	135.80†	- 0.80	0.51
Aust Acc	240.80	256.00	+ 5.50	1.99
Aust Inc	148.00	157.50	+ 3.40	1.99
Euro Gen Inc	153.10	162.40	+ 4.80	1.12
Euro Growth	161.60	173.80	+ 5.30	1.12
Japan & Gen Inc	167.50	177.40	+ 4.10	
(Accum Units)	168.40	179.40	+ 4.10	
Japan Spec Sits	77.61	82.72	+ 1.86	0.10
Univ Tech Inc	79.56	84.88	+ 1.85	0.04
Worldwide	165.80	176.00	+ 3.80	0.97

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	91.61	97.10	+ 0.55	
Amer Smlr Cos	124.80	133.60	+ 0.30	
Convertibles	92.43	96.66†	- 0.02	5.70
Eastern	255.00	270.50	+ 8.00	0.30
Equity Income	83.01	88.10†	+ 1.40	4.59
European Growth	204.60	217.00	+ 1.30	0.90
Income	217.20	230.80	+ 3.80	0.20
German Growth	74.58	79.14	+ 1.40	0.50
Global Bond	63.68	66.45	- 0.54	8.20
Global Growth	124.40	132.50	+ 2.30	
Japan Growth	184.70	195.70	- 2.10	
Japan Smaller	149.20	158.50	- 2.70	
Korea Trust	75.50	83.46	+ 2.00	
Portfolio	126.10	137.10	+ 1.30	1.80
Recovery (Units)	248.20	263.70	+ 1.90	0.60
Uk Growth	93.44	99.55	+ 1.17	2.20
UK Smaller Cos	79.80	87.13†	+ 1.86	1.80
Select Managers	73.76	79.09†	+ 1.20	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3000

Int Gwth Pnt Inc	74.65	79.41	+ 0.20	7.49
Special Oppor Inc	53.38	56.79	- 0.64	

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 6033

Balanced Growth	106.34	112.53†	- 0.52	1.87
(Accum Units)	120.64	127.66	- 0.58	1.87
Smaller Cos	104.90	110.60†	+ 2.70	1.26
Higher Yield	44.40	46.99†	+ 0.60	4.60
American Gth Inc	70.30	74.39	+ 0.03	
European Growth	135.19	143.06	+ 3.71	0.26
(Accum Units)	137.85	145.88	+ 3.79	0.26
Global Bond Inc	35.73	37.70	+ 0.16	6.98
Mngd Philips Inc	41.34	43.72†	+ 0.67	1.54
(Accum Units)	42.13	44.57	+ 0.69	1.54
Jal Stock Dists	111.91	118.42	+ 2.47	
Pacific Gwth	120.03	127.01	+ 3.07	
Formerly LAS				
UK General	76.47	80.93	+ 0.75	3.80
(Accum Units)	78.31	82.87	+ 0.77	3.80
Japan	58.82	63.15	+ 0.97	
Gilt & Fixed Int	95.62	98.09	+ 0.83	7.66

BURRAGE LIMIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Short Dated Gilt	63.16	63.99	+ 0.21	6.39

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Evolve	154.90	164.60	- 2.40	1.78
UK Growth	168.50	179.30	+ 2.10	2.38
UK Income	130.30	138.70†	+ 1.50	4.55

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01707 651 122

Can Gen Dist	188.10	197.20	+ 2.30	2.01
-do- Income Dist	105.70	112.10†	+ 1.10	4.46
(Accum Units)	326.00	345.60	+ 3.10	4.46
Gilt & Fxd Int	39.55	41.92	+ 0.22	6.49

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 236 5685 Enq 0161 236 5685 Dlg 0161 236 5362

American & Gen	156.90	166.50†	+ 2.20	
European Inc	79.56	84.36	+ 0.75	0.54
Smaller Cos'(4-11	80.24	85.37	+ 1.67	2.02
Growth	418.00	442.80	+ 0.60	2.29
Income & Growth	404.10	429.90	+ 2.70	4.62
(Accum Units)	509.20	513.30	- 3.70	4.02
Japan & Gen	72.53	- 76.94†	- 1.33	
Master Portfolio	£161.14	£164.62†	+£1.39	2.46
(Accum Units)	£121.30	£125.71	+£1.68	2.46
Special Sits	98.65	102.80	+ 0.98	2.24
High Yield	£12.93	£13.33†	+ 9.00	4.55

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

Cazenove Portfolio	93.74	99.47	- 1.48	2.49
American Portfolio	93.30	99.47	+ 1.68	1.19
European Portfolio	97.61	103.90†	+ 2.39	0.79
Japanese Portfolio	84.99	88.98	+ 1.12	
Pacific Portfolio	130.40	140.22	+ 2.81	0.95
Uk Inc & Growth	75.04	80.53†	+ 1.18	3.33
Utility & Fixed	93.09	93.82	- 0.88	7.17

CENT BD OF FR OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 580 1815

Inc Fund	664.80	687.10	+ 11.60	4.65
Fxd In Sic	147.90	148.00	+ 0.75	9.73

CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0171 332 5000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK General Tst	63.54	67.99	+ 0.63	2.94

COIS-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD
0171 588 1815

Inc	654.70	662.17	+20.24	4.72
Accum	658.00	658.34	+21.24	
Fixed Int Inc	158.55	170.84	+ 0.79	9.52
Fixed Int Acc	192.85	193.43	+ 2.75	

CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD
0171 637 7667

Ind Growth	112.33	120.53	+ 2.81	
UK Income	104.07	113.43	+ 1.22	5.241

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5566

Beckman Intl	77.21	81.27	- 0.08	1.48
Beck Bro-Tech	36.62	38.43	+ 0.62	
Accm Ethical Tst	153.64	161.34	+ 2.67	0.69
City Fin Assets	68.70	72.13†	+ 1.05	1.55
City Fin America	86.41	90.84†	+ 0.63	
City Fin Intl	75.24	79.01†	+ 0.84	0.92
City Fin Japan	160.01	168.44	+ 1.29	
Prices Hse Cap	269.74	282.07	+ 2.30	1.68
Prices Hse Inc	185.03	200.94†	- 2.74	4.20
Rushmere Fund	142.31	152.59†	+ 1.44	
3 Sel Inc/Gth Inc	53.56	57.33	+ 1.62	4.25

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

Emerging Markets	92.67	99.88	- 0.78	

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

American Gwth	59.41	63.54	+ 0.91	
Atlas Magd Gwth	36.58	39.13	+ 0.79	0.60
Dragon Growth	62.29	66.62	+ 1.40	0.01
Equity Income Inc	61.96	67.22	+ 0.92	4.15
Eurogen	82.43	88.42	+ 2.05	0.65
Recovery	159.00	169.20†	+ 5.10	1.86

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 253 0494

Equity Dist	828.50	834.10	+18.10	3.86

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

Fedbenmgt 1st	75.67	80.49	+ 1.66	0.46
Income	235.00	250.00†	+ 5.10	4.65
(Accum Units)	590.70	626.40†	+ 7.60	4.64
Smaller Cos	163.10	172.40	+ 4.50	.80
(Accum Units)	186.10	210.70	+ 5.50	60
Inv Portfolio	79.01	84.05	+ 1.25	1.42
High Inc Port	68.96	73.36	+ 0.99	4.72

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0177

Cum Small Cos	£15.37	£15.73	+ 9.90	
Japan Small Cos	£12.12	£12.87	+ 8.10	
UK Small Cos	£17.35	£18.12	+23.80	
US Small Cos	£16.09	£16.56	+10.50	

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8618

Disc Inc	197.70	208.10†	- 0.30	3.18

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0131 315 2500

European Gwth	280.20	296.10†	+ 7.20	0.94
Gold & Natl Res	197.80	210.90	+ 3.60	0.16
Next Asia	113.50	120.90	+ 2.70	
Jan Smlr Co	440.80	469.70†	+ 8.70	
High Annc	270.10	286.70	+ 2.10	0.63
Capital Asia-Pac Mt	110.80	119.50	+ 1.40	0.36
UK Inc & Gth	210.80	225.30†	+ 2.10	2.85

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	140.70	149.70	+ 1.40	1.79
Uk High Inc Inc	148.80	157.80†	- 1.00	4.56
(Accum Units)	193.50	205.90†	+ 2.60	4.56
Uk Prel & Fl Inc	57.61	61.13	+ 0.44	5.13
Envronmtl Opps	85.88	91.34†	+ 1.90	1.03
Uk Smlr Cos	50.78	54.02	+ 1.48	.00

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 526

American	125.60	133.30	+ 2.60	1.37
Convertibles	43.10	21.45†	+ 0.10	6.53
Equity Income	124.90	132.70	+ 1.80	3.99
Eurofund	46.44	49.27	+ 1.56	0.41
Financial	43.87	45.81	+ 0.93	1.81
Growth & Inc	233.90	248.50	+ 2.00	3.10
High Dist	161.40	169.90†	+ 1.40	5.41
International	363.60	407.80	+10.50	0.12
Int Cap Inc	92.71	98.57†	+ 2.44	2.78
Latin American	37.99	39.74	+ 0.46	
Pacific	74.98	79.90	+ 2.26	
Performance Share	21.84	23.20	+ 0.26	7.38
Tokyo	227.20	241.40	+ 8.00	
Uk Smalles Cos	222.60	236.50†	+ 2.30	1.15

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

Exempt Trust	207.76	221.57		0.86

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endurance Fd	197.70	210.30	+ 3.00	0.92

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01286 431 480

European	82.25	88.62	+ 2.53	1.95
Ethical Tst	42.10	44.32	+ 0.63	1.40
Far Eastern	288.14	303.30	+ 5.51	1.39
High Income	130.60	137.47	+ 1.52	4.87
Intl Growth	116.94	123.09	+ 1.31	1.14
North American	113.01	118.95	+ 2.16	1.26
Pacific	114.47	120.49†	+ 1.25	2.53
Smaller Cos	84.48	87.37	+ 0.90	2.62
Special Sits	85.41	89.90	+ 1.31	2.83
1st Al Inv Tsts	177.34	186.67	+ 3.53	1.79

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 407 5966

Smaller Cos Inc	195.14	203.27†	+ 3.64	1.57
Smaller Cos Acc	343.0	357.29†	+ 6.39	1.57
Recovery	48.40	51.45	+ 0.95	1.38
Recovery Acc	49.94	52.02	+ 0.97	1.38

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Balanced Growth	107.95	114.84†	- 2.14	6.06
Capital Growth	86.14	85.94	+ 1.84	
Fd of Inv Tsts	43.35	46.24	+ 0.77	0.63
High Income	39.82	42.88†	+ 0.67	10.78
Million	48.37	53.65	+ 1.24	
Zero Preference	38.08	40.40	+ 0.45	

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

Family Asset Tst	77.05	81.98†	+ 1.01	2.99
Family Income Tst	43.53	43.53†	+ 0.47	6.75
Family Trust	81.52	86.58†	+ 1.05	1.75
United Charities	256.40	272.70	+ 2.10	4.32

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Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.50
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	27.06	27.10	+ 0.20	7.49
Intl Bond	29.09	30.15†	+ 0.32	4.89
Income Funds				
High Income	23.61	24.85†	+ 0.16	4.59
Income Plus	107.93	114.80	+ 1.40	3.86
Money Md Inc	47.73	50.52†	+ 0.61	1.73
European Income	45.08	44.75	+ 1.14	1.41
Far East Inc	85.14	88.16	+ 0.70	2.68
Global Convertible	22.30	23.76	+ 0.22	3.33
Uk Inc Gth	24.14	25.67	+ 0.23	1.95
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	58.72	62.64	+ 2.00	
American	250.90	265.30	+ 4.40	
Amer Spec Sits	118.50	126.50†	+ 0.70	
Amer Smaller Cos	37.25	39.71	+ 1.03	
European	170.40	181.20	+ 5.00	
European Opps	63.31	67.32†	+ 1.32	
Global Prin	34.92	36.50†	+ 0.66	0.71
UK Growth	85.06	90.53	+ 1.03	
Growth & Inc	139.50	148.80	+ 1.50	2.02
Intl PEP	36.78	39.09	+ 0.65	
Japan Spec Sits	90.82	96.56	+ 1.66	
Japan	191.20	203.60	+ 3.10	
Managed Intl	274.20	292.00	+ 4.80	
Moneybuilder	52.05	55.36	+ 0.85	
Recovery	45.45	49.36	+ 0.51	
Smlr Cos Asia	142.30	151.60	+ 2.30	
Special Sits	503.60	535.90	+ 5.80	
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	109.19	109.19	+ 0.09	5.50

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced	133.80	136.50	+ 1.30	1.88
Inc Profile	84.55	88.24	+ 1.35	3.41
Cap Profile	140.10	142.70	+ 2.10	1.25
General Opps	118.70	120.40†	+ 0.80	3.56
Growth Inc	30.66	30.66†	+ 0.01	1.74
Private Portfolio	389.10	406.10	+ 0.70	1.95

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Enr 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 251 010

European	115.20	121.70	+ 3.20	0.35
Emrg Asian	157.20	168.10	+ 5.30	
High Income	26.88	22.17†	- 0.10	10.15
Oriental Income	99.79	98.50	+ 1.32	3.25
Uk Growth	106.10	113.60	+ 1.30	1.69
Uk Income	104.10	111.10†	+ 1.00	3.87
US Smaller Cos	304.70	325.90	+ 9.90	0.15

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
01371 407 5666

High Inc Exty	47.02	49.44	+ 0.64	3.30
-do- Inc 1st Inc	73.21	76.96	+ 1.39	3.60
Intl Growth	46.46	48.83†	+ 0.81	
Recommend Tst	87.70	92.25	+ 1.40	
UK Smaller Cos	81.57	85.77	+ 1.59	0.96

FRANKLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
0171 374 4100

American Growth	55.47	58.40	+ 0.12	
(Accum Units)	55.47	58.40	+ 0.12	
Amer Smlr Cos	488.60	501.30	+ 1.90	
(Accum Units)	478.70	512.00	+ 1.90	
Canada Tst	302.40	321.60†	+ 5.40	1.61

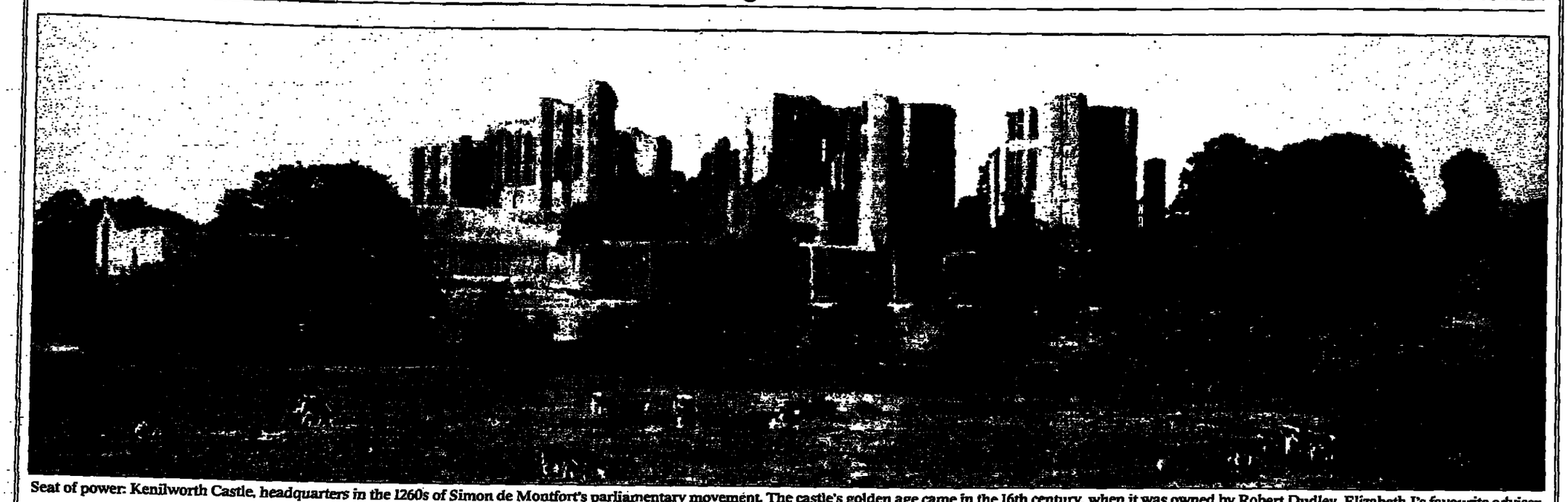
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
(Accum Units)	434.80	462.50†	+ 7.90	1.61
Cont Smlr Cos	59.82	63.13	+ 1.25	0.57
(Accum Units)	61.88	65.40	+ 1.25	.57
Convertible	122.20	130.00	+ 1.00	5.87
(Accum Units)	247.00	262.70	+ 2.00	5.87
Emerging Markets	93.08	97.38	+ 1.35	.24
(Accum Units)	83.14	87.45	+ 1.20	.24
European	119.50	126.90	+ 2.70	.13
(Accum Units)	125.20	133.00	+ 2.80	.13
Extra Income	329.90	350.80	+ 4.60	4.11
(Accum Units)	495.40	526.90	+ 6.90	4.11
Financial	130.10	129.20†	+ 1.60	0.30
(Accum Units)	127.20	136.90†	+ 2.00	0.30
Gilt Trust	91.76	93.66†	+ 0.11	8.84
(Accum Units)	89.56	91.39†	+ 0.17	8.84
Health Fund Inc	131.80	140.70†	- 1.30	
(Accum Units)	131.80	140.70†	- 1.30	
Income & Growth	190.10	202.20	+ 1.50	3.32
(Accum Units)	207.10	305.40	+ 2.30	3.32
Intl Growth	349.30	373.90†	+ 1.70	
(Accum Units)	357.80	414.00†	+ 2.00	
Japan & Gen	168.70	180.30	+ 4.40	
(Accum Units)	170.40	182.10	+ 4.40	
Monthly Inc	186.30	199.20†	+ 2.30	4.04
Managed Port Inc	101.50	105.80†	+ 1.30	1.77
(Accum Units)	109.00	114.70†	+ 1.50	1.77
Recovery	301.40	334.40†	+ 4.10	0.13
(Accum Units)	380.10	417.10	+ 7.70	0.13
UK Growth	54.02	57.73	+ 0.55	2.79
(Accum Units)	55.86	59.71	+ 0.58	2.79

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 01705 881349 Enq 01705 881347

FP Am Smlr Cos	112.20	120.00	+ 2.00	0.0
FP Asian Growth	239.50	256.00	+ 2.20	0.0
FP Australian	324.30	347.00	+ 9.50	0.6
FP Equity Dist	377.90	402.00†	- 0.50	2.77
-do- Accum	658.80	680.40†	+ 9.60	2.77
FP Euro Gth Dist	150.10	159.60	+ 4.50	0.71
-do- Accum	156.40	166.30	+ 4.40	0.71
FP Fixed Int Dist	130.80	136.20†	+ 1.50	7.23
-do- Accum	242.90	256.60†	+ 2.70	7.23
FP Intl Bond	97.19	102.40	+ 0.94	5.25
FP Intl Gth Dist	92.63	98.54	+ 2.19	0.74
-do- Accum	96.92	103.10	+ 2.30	0.74
FP Nth Amer Dist	189.50	200.70	+ 4.50	1.06
-do- Accum	208.60	221.10	+ 4.90	1.06
FP Pac Basin Acc	196.60	210.10	+ 2.10	
FP Income	54.05	57.85	+ 0.01	5.05
(Accum Units)	173.00	186.80		5.03
FP Sthp Deposit	100.40	100.40†	+ 0.10	6.25
FP Tokyo	89.85	94.27	+ 1.95	0.0
FP UK Focus	35.62	38.30†	+ 0.13	1.99
FP UK Growth	168.80			

نقلاً من الأصل

Part one of a guide to English Heritage sites that will give free admission to thousands of Times readers next month



Seat of power: Kenilworth Castle, headquarters in the 1260s of Simon de Montfort's parliamentary movement. The castle's golden age came in the 16th century, when it was owned by Robert Dudley, Elizabeth I's favourite adviser

Passport to the treasures of Britain

This summer *The Times*, in association with pensions specialist NPI, has joined English Heritage and the Historic Houses Association to offer readers unprecedented access to Britain's national heritage.

From June to September, readers will be able to visit 100 historic sites in England, Scotland and Wales at reduced prices — just collect six tokens and apply for your Times/NPI Passport to the Treasures of Britain to qualify for the discounts.

As a bonus to launch the campaign, passport-holders and their children are entitled to free admission at more than 130 English Heritage properties during the weekend of June 3/4. Listed below are some of the sites that will waive entrance fees for Times/NPI passport-holders that weekend. Further details will be published in *The Times* on Monday.

Aldborough Roman Town
Nr Boroughbridge, North Yorks
Principal town of the Brigantes, largest tribe in Roman Britain; includes defences and mosaic pavements.

Appuldurcombe House
Nr Wroxall, Isle of Wight
Shell of an 18th-century baroque-style house, set in grounds designed by Capability Brown.

Ashby de la Zouche Castle
Ashby de la Zouche, Leics
Ruins of a late medieval castle dominated by an 80ft tower.

Audley End House
Nr Saffron Walden, Essex
Built by Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk; set in parkland landscaped by Capability Brown.

Avebury Museum
Avebury, Wiltshire
Details research on Avebury stone circles.

Aydon Castle
Nr Corbridge, Northumberland
One of the finest fortified manor houses in England, dating from the late 13th century.

Barnard Castle
Barnard Castle, Co Durham
Substantial remains of a large castle built on a rugged River Tees escarpment.

Battle Abbey
Battle, East Sussex
Site of the battle of Hastings; the abbey's cloister and 14th-century gatehouse are well preserved.

Bayham Abbey
Nr Lamberhurst, East Sussex
Ruins of an abbey founded in 1208, in an 18th-century landscaped setting.

Beeston Castle
Nr Chester, Cheshire
Commands exceptional views of surrounding countryside.

Belsay Hall
Belsay, Northumberland
One of the most important neoclassical houses in Britain, plus a well-preserved 14th-century castle and ruined 17th-century mansion.

Berney Arms Windmill
Nr Reedham, Norfolk
Landmark for miles around.

Berry Pomeroy Castle
Nr Totnes, Devon
Romantic late medieval castle with a flamboyant courtier's mansion.

Berwick-upon-Tweed Barracks
Berwick, Northumberland
Among the earliest purpose-built barracks: little changed since 1717.

Birdoswald Fort
Nr Greenhead, Northumberland
Well-preserved fort on Hadrian's Wall.

Bishop's Palace
Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Medieval palace of the bishops of Lincoln, with one of Europe's most northerly vineyards.

Bishop's Waltham Palace
Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire
Medieval seat of the bishops of Winchester.

Bolsover Castle
Bolsover, Derbyshire
Enchanting early 17th-century mansion set high on a wooded hilltop.

Boscobel House
Nr Shackerley, Shropshire
King Charles II hid here after the battle of Worcester.

Brinkburn Priory
Nr Rothbury, Northumberland
Fine example of 12th-century architecture, almost perfectly preserved.

Brodsworth Hall
Brodsworth, South Yorkshire
Beautiful Victorian country house with contents that have survived intact since the 1860s.

Brougham Castle
Nr Penrith, Cumbria
Impressive ruins, including an early 13th-century keep.

Bushmead Priory
Colmworth, Bedfordshire
Rare medieval refectory of an Augustine priory.

Byland Abbey
Thirsk, North Yorkshire
Hauntingly lovely ruin in the shadow of Hambleton Hills.

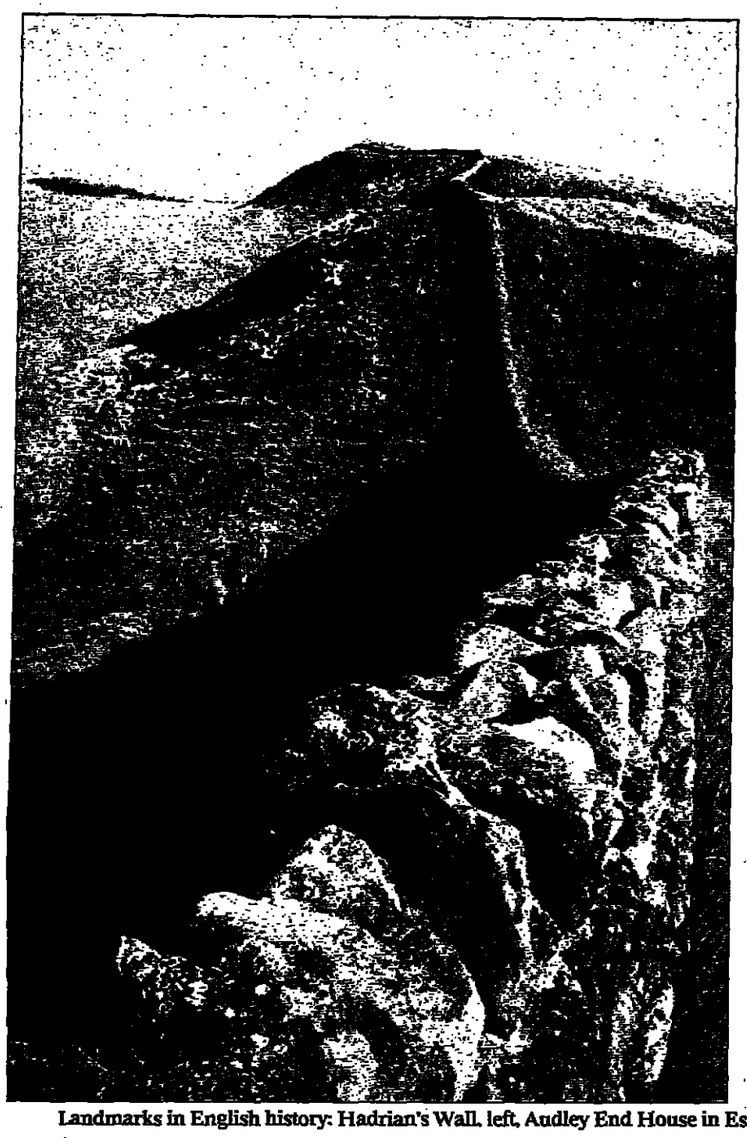
Calshot Castle
Nr Fawley, Hampshire
Built by Henry VIII to command the sea passage to Southampton; special 1995 exhibition.

Camber Castle
Nr Rye, Sussex
Rare Henrician fort surviving in its original plan.

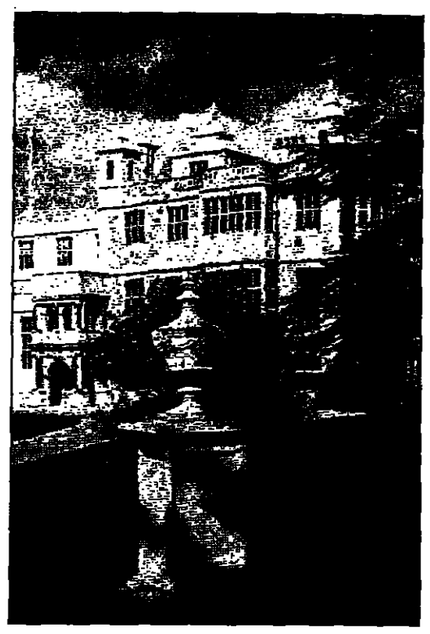
Carisbrooke Castle
Nr Newport, Isle of Wight
Ancient fortress in a commanding position; centre-stage of the greatest dramas in English history, including the imprisonment of Charles I.

Carlisle Castle
Carlisle, Cumbria
New exhibition marks the 250th anniversary of the Jacobite Rising, when Bonnie Prince Charlie took the castle in 1745.

Castle Acre Priory
Nr Castle Acre, Norfolk
West front of priory's 12th-century church still rises to its full height; also prior's lodgings and chapel.



Landmarks in English history: Hadrian's Wall, left, Audley End House in Essex, top, and Battle Abbey in East Sussex





Castle Rising Castle
Nr King's Lynn, Norfolk
Fine mid-12th century domestic keep.

Chesters Fort
Nr Chollerford, Northumberland
Cavalry fort near bridge carrying Hadrian's Wall across the Tyne

Chiswick House
Southwest London
One of the first English Palladian villas, built in about 1725; internationally renowned.

Chysauster
Nr Gulval, Cornwall
Deserted Roman-Cornish village with a "street" of eight houses.

Cleeve Abbey
Washford, Somerset
Built in the 13th century; one of the few monastic sites to retain a complete set of cloister buildings.

Clifford's Tower
York, North Yorkshire
Tower on one of two mottes thrown up by William the Conquerer to hold York.

Conisbrough Castle
Nr Conisbrough, South Yorkshire
Oldest circular keep in England and one of the finest medieval buildings.

Corbridge
Nr Corbridge, Northumberland
Originally a fort, then a supply depot on Hadrian's Wall.

Dartmouth Castle
Nr Dartmouth, Devon
One of the first castles constructed with artillery in mind; 450 years old.

Deal Castle
Nr Deal, Kent
Built by Henry VIII; fascinating passages, battlements and a huge basement with an exhibition.

Denny Abbey
Nr Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Remains of 12th-century Benedictine abbey, which also housed Knights Templar and nuns.

Dover Castle
Dover, Kent
Magnificent castle, in constant use for 800 years.

Dunstanburgh Castle
Nr Alnwick, Northumberland
Wonderful 14th-century castle built on a 100ft crag.

Dymchurch Martello Tower
Dymchurch, Kent
One of many artillery towers that formed a chain of strongholds against Napoleon.

Etal Castle
Etal, Northumberland
Border castle built in the 14th century.

Farleigh Hungerford Castle
Farleigh Hungerford, Somerset
Ruins of a 14th-century castle; chapel contains wall paintings, stained glass and Sir Thomas Hungerford's tomb.

Farnham Castle Keep
Nr Farnham, Surrey
Motte and bailey castle; in continuous occupation since 12th century.

Finchale Priory
Nr Durham, Co Durham
Beautiful 13th-century ruins in woods beside the River Wear.

Fort Brockhurst
Elson, Hampshire
Built in the 19th century to protect Portsmouth.

Framlingham Castle
Framlingham, Suffolk
Superb 12th-century castle; viewed from the outside, it looks almost the same as when it was built.

Furness Abbey
Nr Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria
Founded in 1123 by Stephen, later King of England; there is an exhibition and a museum containing fine stone carvings.

Gainsborough Old Hall
Gainsborough, Lincolnshire
Large medieval house with a magnificent great hall.

Gisborough Priory
Guisborough, Cleveland
Augustine priory; remains include the gatehouse and part of a 14th-century church.

Goodrich Castle
Nr Ross-on-Wye, Hereford & Worcester
Magnificent red sandstone castle with a 12th-century keep and extensive remains.

Grime's Graves
Nr Thetford, Norfolk
Remarkable Neolithic flint mines, unique in England, comprising more than 300 pits and shafts.

Hailes Abbey
Nr Winchcombe, Gloucestershire
Cistercian abbey built in the 13th century; good sculpture.

Halesowen Abbey
Nr Birmingham, West Midlands
Remains of an abbey founded by King John in the 13th century.

Hardwick Old Hall
Nr Chesterfield, Derbyshire
Large ruined house, finished in 1591; displays Bess of Hardwick's innovative planning and decorative plasterwork.

Haughmond Abbey
Nr Shrewsbury, Shropshire
Extensive remains of 12th-century Augustine abbey.

Hellfire Corner, Dover Castle
Dover, Kent
Tunnels excavated as a defence against Napoleon; used as planning quarters in the Second World War and only recently opened to the public.

Helmsley Castle
Helmsley, North Yorkshire
Built in the 12th century; spectacular earthworks surround a ruined Norman keep.

Housesteads Roman Fort
Nr Bardon Mill, Nthmb
Most complete remains of a Roman fort in Britain.

Hurst Castle
Nr Keyhaven, Hampshire
One of the most sophisticated fortresses built by Henry VIII; strengthened in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Jewel Tower
Westminster, London
Built in about 1365 to house the personal treasure of Edward III.

Kenilworth Castle
Kenilworth, Warwickshire
Gaunt ruin of what was once the power-base of the most influential baron in England.

Kirby Hall
Nr Corby, Northamptonshire
Outstanding example of a large, stone-built Elizabethan mansion.

Kirkham Priory
Nr Malton, North Yorkshire
Ruins of an Augustine priory; magnificent gatehouse.

After June 3/4, production of the Times/NPI passport at any Treasures of Britain site will entitle the holder to a range of concessions, including two tickets for the price of one at most properties. For part two of the English Heritage list and further details of the Treasures of Britain campaign, see page 35 of *The Times* on Monday.



Neoclassical masterpiece: Belsay Hall in Northumberland

THE COMPETITION

THE 1995 Times/NPI Treasures of Britain campaign offers readers exclusive discounts at 100 historic sites in England, Scotland and Wales this summer.

Organised in conjunction with English Heritage and the Historic Houses Association, the campaign covers monuments, abbeys, castles, palaces, stately homes, manor houses, country parks and formal gardens from June to September.

To visit these sites at a discount, readers must obtain the Times/NPI Passport to the Treasures of Britain. Full details appear below.

☐ From next Saturday until the end of September, *The Times* will publish a weekly column in the *Weekend* section advising readers on special events and concessions at historic sites.

☐ Each week, *The Times* is publishing an AA-recommended tour guide incorporating heritage sites. The second guide in the series appears in *Car 95* today.

WHAT TO DO

TO receive a passport, simply collect six tokens from *The Times*. The first was printed last Saturday; the final token will appear in *next Saturday's* paper. Complete the coupon below and send it with the six tokens and a first-class stamp to: The Times/NPI Passport Offer, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6YU.

NPI THE TIMES TREASURES OF BRITAIN PASSPORT

To obtain a Times/NPI Passport to the Treasures of Britain and a guide describing 100 English, Welsh and Scottish properties participating in the scheme, complete the panel below and send the form, enclosing a first-class stamp and six tokens, to The Times/NPI Passport Offer, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6YU. The guide includes details of the concessions available, and the passport also entitles holders and their children to free admission to more than 130 of English Heritage's 400 sites on the weekend of June 3/4, normally only available to English Heritage members.



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THE TIMES
NPI TREASURES OF BRITAIN CAMPAIGN
TOKEN SEVEN

Quality not quantity central to expansive game



Rob Andrew on the style of rugby Wasps will bring to the final of the Pilkington Cup this afternoon

How often this season have rugby watchers, professional and amateur, tried to dissect Wasps' playing style yet failed to comprehend what is involved? A mythology has grown up about running rugby that we at the club have often heard expressed as we have felt our way towards a more expansive game.

People seem under the impression that you can only be called a side that runs the ball if you throw every piece of possession you receive all over the field. Dare to kick and your image is destroyed.

Those people attending what I hope will be an enthralling Pilkington Cup final today should know precisely the Wasps philosophy. Certainly, we attempt to use our threequarters and also get our forwards running at opponents with ball in hand.

But it is not and never can be just about the percentage of ball you spread. It is always a question of quality — that is the key. You can spend 30 minutes without any possession at all, tackling and concentrating well enough to keep a side from scoring. But then you can get just two pieces of high-quality possession yourself and score ten or 14 points. That is the reality of the game. Besides, our forwards would be entitled to believe they can win some good ball off the Bath pack this afternoon. It is a pity Nick Popplewell, who is in Italy with Ireland, will not be there, but Norman Hadley is a powerful figure and a great influence and I believe he will have a major game, especially as he is not now going to the World Cup. This is his chance to make a considerable impression on a grand stage.

In an ideal world we would all have liked this season to end three weeks ago because I believe England should now be doing what Scotland are engaged in, a short tour where they can be together and rehearse before departure for the World Cup. But nobody complains about playing in a cup final. This will be my first final since 1987 and then it was not quite the occasion it is today. For the club, it is a fantastic end to the season and the place has been buzzing all week. The final has become a huge event and we are thoroughly looking forward to it.

Of course we hope to win, but I have the feeling there is a difference between our approach and Bath's. They have to win to rescue their season, whereas we want to do it to start putting trophies in our cupboard. But I do not think we have to win to confirm the great progress that we have made this season. We have proved that already by beating the likes of Bath and Leicester.

Few people had heard of some of the young players in our team, such as Nick Greenstock, Darren Molloy and Jon Ufton 12 months ago. Now they have gained much experience and we have a squad which can set us up for the next few years.

By their standards Bath have been a little inconsistent this season, but I do not underestimate their potency in any match, let alone a cup final. Today they will play to their familiar pattern, trying to launch their strong backrow runners at our midfield backs and then release fast second-phase ball for the likes of Jeremy Guscott to exploit outside.

There will be an element of pragmatism in our play. At times this season we have been naive and a little headless, but do not expect us to be that way today. We have learnt as the season has progressed and know we must be a little more realistic at the highest level.

Interview by Peter Bills

Preview, page 48

Welsh Cup final could hinge on half back contest

BY GERALD DAVIES

SWANSEA have only won the cup once, beating Newport in 1978. They were losers on their other five appearances in the final. Pontypridd have only managed to reach the grand finale at Cardiff Arms Park on one occasion, when they lost to Bridgend in 1979. What is certain today, then, in the Swalec Cup final is that an unfamiliar name will be written on the trophy.

In the last 11 years the names of either Cardiff or LLanelli has been inscribed on it no less than nine times. On the other two occasions, in 1989 and 1990, Neath were the winners. It was high time, therefore, that such a stranglehold should be broken.

Whether the introduction of leagues, and the sharpening of a competitive edge, is responsible, both Swansea and Pontypridd seem to have galvanised their efforts during the Nineties.

Swansea once blew hot and cold: brilliant one moment, mediocre the next. In the Nineties and with the arrival of Mike Ruddock, their coach, they have won the championship twice and when, this season, all hopes were lost in that direction they redirected their efforts towards the knockout competition and surprised everyone with a victory against the much fancied Cardiff in the semi-final.

Pontypridd have traditionally been a middling sort of team, rugged, awkward and a tough nut to crack when the fancy dans from the M4 corridor came to visit. Nowadays they play rugby of brilliance and invention from whom those same fancy dans could learn a thing or two. They are an all-round team. Just as, indeed, Swansea are. The prospects then are very promising.

"Our scrum is sound and in Prosser and Rowley we have two good lineout experts," says Dennis John, their coach. "In the Lewis brothers in the centre we have players who know when to spread the ball outside or come back towards the heavier support".



Jenkins: set record

And the two half backs? "Well, to my way of thinking they're the best pair in Wales," John concludes. He does not conceal his disappointment that his son Paul, the scrum half, is not going with him and the Welsh team to the World Cup. Week in, week out Paul John has been exceptionally consistent over the last few years.

Dennis John, too, acknowledges that Jenkins is not performing as well for Wales as he does for his club. "I think that he is more comfortable with his club. He knows exactly what is expected of him here. He also shares the responsibility for the decision-making with Paul." Jenkins has scored 107 points in the competition so far this season, which is a record.

Indeed, the contest at half back is one of the intriguing aspects of today's match. Facing Paul John is Robert Jones, the incumbent Welsh scrum half. And at stand-off half is Aled Williams who some believe, in the manner of such debates in Wales, should have played more for his country.

Despite his numerous influential performances for Swansea, Williams has only played once for Wales and that solitary honour was gained as a replacement on the wing on the tour to Namibia in 1990.

In all, seven other players have been preferred in the position ahead of him during his playing career. But, typically, it was Williams' vital break in the semi-final which eventually caused Cardiff's downfall. Such devastating breaks are his stock-in-trade and make for exhilarating rugby.

The meteorologists say we can be certain of fine weather. The sporting forecasters promise a thrilling game from two well-equipped teams. We can be less certain of that. Cup finals are notorious for not living up to their billing. But we can always live in hope.

CARDIFF TEAMS

PONTYPRIDD		SWANSEA
C Cormack	15	A Clement (captain)
D Manley	14	A Harris
J Lewis	13	R Boobyer
S Lewis	12	D Weatherley
O Robbins	11	Simon Davies
N Jenkins	10	A Williams
Paul John	9	R Jones
N Bezani (captain)	1	C Loader
Phil John	2	G Jenkins
A Metcalfe	3	K Colclough
M Lloyd	6	A Reynolds
G Prosser	4	P Arnold
M Rowley	5	A Moore
R Collins	7	R Appleyard
D McIntosh	8	Stuart Davies

Referee: C Thomas (Neath)

REPLACEMENTS (from): D Gibbon, L Phillips, L Harvey, M Spiller, G Jones, L Jarvis, G Lewis, M Smith.

REPLACEMENTS: R Llewellyn, M Thomas, R Moriarty, L Griffiths, Robbie Jones, S McIntosh



Jones, Swansea's international scrum half, will face a keen and consistent rival

Scotland players get £3,000 each

FROM MARK SOUSTER
IN MADRID

AS DETAILS of a proposed one-off payment of £3,000 a man to the Scottish Rugby Union World Cup squad were revealed yesterday, it emerged that player pressure was at least partially responsible for the unexpected largesse of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU).

A sum of £80,000 has been put into the official players' trust by the union to meet the payments. However, Freddie McLeod, one of Scotland's representatives on the International Rugby Football Board, was both angry at the manner in which details had been leaked, and the inference that players were being paid directly for playing in contravention of the amateur laws.

McLeod said: "The money has been put into the trust which was set up to promote the game. Players are being rewarded for promotional work they have done this season.

"The inference is that players are being paid to play and that is not the case. Players are being paid quite legitimately."

The decision to find some way to recompense players under existing legislation was ratified at a full committee meeting of the SRU last week. Douglas Morgan, the coach, and the medical team will also benefit, but not Duncan Paterson, the manager.

Scotland's senior players are known to have been annoyed at what they perceived as the SRU's foot dragging over promotional activities. They have also been upset by reports that players in the southern hemisphere are receiving at least £10,000 each.

West fixes Wigan's sights on grand slam finale

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WITH *the sun shining* and two-thirds of rugby league's new summer Super League in direct competition, the holiday weekend is a foretaste of the future, for which the Stones Bitter Premiership should be grateful.

The end-of-season competition comes as gluttony on top of eight months gorging. This year, probably its last, at least dresses up a nakedly money-spinning event. Eight of the season's ten leading sides, chosen to make up Super League next March, along with London and Paris, are participating.

Whether the game enters its new era as an elite of more than one team, hinges on Wigan being sated by success, an unsafe bet given their appetite. The rest have had the stuffing knocked out of them more this season than any other, and an achievement beyond Wigan thus far — a grand slam of the four domestic prizes — is in the sights of Graeme West, the Wigan coach.

The visit tomorrow of Sheffield Eagles brings West full circle to his appointment a year ago, when St Helens were beaten in the first round. His team, more dominant than ever, have lost three games since, drawn one, won 42 and picked up all items of silverware going.

Martin Offiah this week criticised tradition and identity, winners in the defeat of proposals for merged clubs, which might have posed a more effective challenge to the champions' pre-eminence.

"These things are important but don't win you trophies," Offiah said.

The Great Britain wing puts his finger on the problem. Wigan, with Offiah's help, will probably remain untouchable. Enough improved contracts have been agreed to stem the asset-stripping at Central Park by the Australian Rugby League (ARL), although a separate contractual row over Frano Botica is worsening.

Auckland Warriors are insisting the former All Black is committed to them for two years from this month, while Wigan are claiming he has re-signed for 12 months. In a new 2½-year deal yesterday for Nigel Wright, who Wakefield Trinity were hoping to buy back from the champion club after a lengthy loan spell, Wigan have taken out insurance at stand-off half.

Castleford, last year's beaten finalists, entertain Warrington, who have beaten them three times this season and have Jonathan Davies back after a hamstring injury. Halifax must end an 11-year losing run at Knowsley Road to prevent a near-full strength St Helens reaching next week's semi-finals.

In Australia, the ARL is still hopeful of a compromise in the battle with the breakaway Super League, which reached the Federal Court yesterday. Cases brought by both sides were adjourned until July 7.

IN BRIEF

Prean puts England on course to avoid relegation

CARL PREAN returned to the England men's table tennis team yesterday to lead them to a 3-0 victory over Poland which ensured that they would not be relegated in the world championships at Tianjin, China.

Prean's absence with tendinitis in the knee had caused friction within the squad and his reappearance, after missing five matches, immediately improved morale in what was, at last, a full-strength team.

The Germany-based Isle of Wight player scored well with his big forehand loop against Tomasz Krzeszewski to win 21-10, 21-19. England went 2-0 up when Chen Xinhua outplayed Piotr Skierski 21-15, 21-14. The vital victory was completed by Commonwealth silver medal-winner Alan Cooke, who had been struggling in these world championships, but who returned to form to win well against Piotr Szafranek, 21-15, 21-15.

England's women, already safe from relegation with two wins, lost 3-0 to Hungary and, like the men, now play for a finish in positions nine to 16.

Modahl appeal

Athletics: Diane Modahl's appeal against her four-year suspension after testing positive for banned drugs will be heard in July, the British Athletic Federation said yesterday. Three days — July 24, 25 and 28 — have been set aside for the hearing at a venue still to be announced.

The federation has appointed Robert Reid QC as chairman of the appeal panel. The other panel members are Gordon Wright, of the Northern Counties Athletic Association, and Beryl Randle, of the Midland Counties Athletic Association and Race Walking Association.

Illingworth top

Cycling: Matthew Illingworth, who has recorded the fastest ten-mile time of the year, 19min 28sec, is top seed among the 120 riders for the British Ten-Mile Championship, the first title trial of the season, at Wolvey, Warwickshire, tomorrow.

Rob Hayles, the 1994 champion, is barred from defending his title now that he has turned professional. Richard Prebble, the silver medal-winner last year, and Stuart Dangerfield, only six seconds behind Prebble a year ago, are other leading contenders.

Bottom match

American Football: London Monarchs and Scottish Claymores clash in their final game of the first half of the world league season at Murrayfield tomorrow. With both sides having lost three out of four matches, it is a battle to avoid finishing last in the six-team league before the split of the ten-game season into two five-game sections allows them to start again.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Arsenal v Wimbledon V
(-) Aston Villa v Liverpool V
(2) Crystal Palace v West Ham
(3) Everton v Southampton
(4) Ipswich v Coventry
(5) Leeds v Norwich
(6) * Leicester v Chelsea
(7) Nottingham Forest v Man City
(8) * QPR v Tottenham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	40	26	8	6	78	37	86
Man Utd	39	24	9	6	73	26	81
Nottm Forest	40	21	10	9	69	41	73
Liverpool	39	20	11	8	63	31	71
Newcastle	40	19	12	9	64	44	69
Leeds	39	18	12	9	53	35	66
Tottenham	39	16	13	10	63	53	61
Wimbledon	41	15	10	16	46	63	55
QPR	40	15	9	16	56	58	54
Southampton	39	12	16	11	58	59	52
Arsenal	41	13	12	16	51	47	51
Chelsea	40	12	14	14	47	53	50
Man City	40	12	13	15	51	60	49
Sheff Wed	40	12	12	16	45	55	48
West Ham	39	12	10	17	40	46	46
Coventry	39	11	13	15	41	59	46
Everton	39	10	15	14	43	51	45
Aston Villa	40	10	14	16	48	55	44
Crystal Palace	39	10	12	17	30	43	42
Norwich	40	10	12	18	35	51	42
Leicester	40	6	9	25	42	77	27
Ipswich	39	6	6	27	33	88	24

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

(-) Sheff Utd v Grimsby

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	45	23	12	10	66	39	81
Bolton	45	21	13	11	66	44	76
Reading	45	22	10	13	68	43	76
Wolves	45	21	12	12	76	60	75
Tranmere	45	22	9	14	66	57	75
Barnsley	45	20	12	13	62	49	72
Watford	45	18	13	14	50	45	67
Derby	45	18	12	15	65	49	66
Sheff Utd	45	16	17	12	71	54	65
Grimsby	45	17	14	14	61	53	65
Millwall	45	16	13	16	59	59	61
Oldham	45	16	12	17	59	59	60
Stoke	45	15	15	15	47	51	60
Charlton	45	16	11	18	57	64	59
Southend	45	17	8	20	51	72	59
Luton	45	15	13	17	59	61	58
Port Vale	45	15	12	18	57	63	57
Portsmouth	45	15	12	18	52	62	57
West Brom	45	16	9	20	49	55	57
Sunderland	45	12	17	16	39	43	53
Swindon	45	12	11	22	53	73	47
Burnley	45	11	12	22	48	73	45
Bristol City	45	11	11	23	41	62	44
Notts County	45	9	12	24	44	65	39

BASS IRISH CUP: Final: Carrick v Linfield (at Oval, Belfast)

BORD GAIS PROMOTION/RELEGATION PLAY-OFF SECOND LEG: Athlone v Finn Harps (7.0).

Second division
(9) Blackpool v Hull
(10) Brighton v Bradford
(11) * Bristol Rovers v Brentford
(12) * Crewe v Cardiff
(13) * Huddersfield v Birmingham
(14) Leyton Orient v Wycombe
(15) Peterborough v York
(16) Plymouth v Oxford Utd
(17) Rotherham v Stockport
(18) Swansea v Chester
(19) Wrexham v Cambridge Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	45	24	14	7	82	36	86
Brentford	45	25	9	11	79	37	84
Crewe	45	25	7	13	80	68	82
Huddersfield	45	22	15	8	76	47	81
Bristol Rovers	45	22	15	8	68	38	81
Wycombe	45	20	15	10	59	46	75
Oxford Utd	45	21	11	13	65	51	74
Hull	45	20	11	14	68	56	71
York	45	21	8	16	66	50	71
Swansea	45	19	14	12	57	44	71
Stockport	45	19	8	18	63	58	65
Blackpool	45	18	10	17	63	68	64
Wrexham	45	16	15	14	55	53	63
Bradford	45	18	12	17	57	63	60
Peterborough	45	14	17	14	53	58	59
Brighton	45	13	17	15	53	53	56
Rotherham	45	13	14	18	56	61	53
Shrewsbury	46	13	14	19	54	62	53
Bournemouth	46	13	11	22	49	69	50
Cambridge Utd	45	10	15	20	51	69	45
Plymouth	45	12	9	24	44	82	45
Cardiff	45	9	10	26	48	74	37
Chester	45	5	11	29	36	84	26
Leyton Orient	45	6	8	31	30	74	26

Third division
(20) Bury v Darlington
(21) Carlisle v Lincoln
(22) Chesterfield v Colchester
(23) Fulham v Rochdale
(24) Hartlepool v Mansfield
(25) Hereford v Barnet
(26) Northampton v Exeter
(27) Scunthorpe v Preston
(28) Torquay v Gillingham
(29) Wigan v Doncaster

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	41	27	10	4	66	28	91
Walsall	42	24	11	7	75	40	83
Chesterfield	41	23	11	7	60	35	80
Bury	41	22	11	8	71	35	77
Preston	41	19	10	12	57	39	67
Mansfield	41	18	11	12	62	56	65
Doncaster	41	17	10	14	56	40	61
Scunthorpe	41	17	8	16	66	62	59
Fulham	41	15	14	12	55	54	59
Colchester	41	16	9	16	54	62	57
Barnet	41	15	11	15	54	60	56
Lincoln	41	14	11	16	51	54	53
Torquay	41	13	13	15	51	56	52
Rochdale	41	12	14	15	44	52	50
Wigan	41	13	10	18	50	58	49
Hereford	41	11	13	17	42	60	46
Gillingham	41	10	11	20	45	61	41
Northampton	41	9	14	18	43	66	41
Darlington	41	11	8	22	42	55	41
Hartlepool	41	10	10	21	40	67	40
Scarborough	42	8	10	24	49	70	34
Exeter	41	8	10	23	35	68	34

Vauxhall Conference
(30) Bromsgrove v Kettering
(31) Dagenham and Red v Telford
(32) Dover v Kidderminster
(33) Macclesfield v Stevenage
(34) Merthyr v Gateshead
(35) Runcorn v Halifax
(36) Southport v Woking
(37) Stafford v Farnborough
(38) Stalybridge v Bath
(39) Welling v Altrincham
(40) Yeovil v Northwich

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(41) Aberdeen v Dundee Utd
(42) Hibernian v Hearts
(43) Motherwell v Kilmarnock
(44) Partick v Falkirk

First division
(45) Airdrie v Hamilton
(46) Ayr v Stranraer
(47) Clydebank v St Mirren
(48) Dundee v St Johnstone
(49) Raith v Dunfermline

Second division
(50) Brechin v East Fife
(51) Greenock Morton v Dumbarton
(52) Queen Of South v Berwick
(53) Stirling v Clyde

Third division
(54) Albion v Queen's Park
(55) Caley This v Ross County
(56) Cowdenbeath v Montrose
(57) East Stirling v Alloa
(58) Forfar v Arbroath

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton v Dorchester; Cambridge City v Gresley; Crawley v Athersone; Gloucester v Solihull; Grav.esend and Northf v Worcester; Heasowen v Hastings, Leek v Chelmsford, Rushden and Diamonds v Sudbury, Sittingbourne v Hednesford; VS Rugby v Cheltenham. Southern division: Bashley v Burnham; Braintree v Wateriooville, Bury Town v Poole, Erith and Belvedere v Fareham, Margate v Baldock, Newport IOW v Yate, Salisbury v Wealdstone, Tonbridge AFC v Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare v Havant; Weymouth v Fisher 93; Witney v Ashford Midland division: Armitage v Forest Green; Belston v Grantham, Bridgnorth v Buckingham Town, Evesham v Newport A.F.C., Hinckley Town v Ilkeston, King's Lynn v Stourbridge, Leicester United v Redditch, Moor Green v Bedworth; Nuneaton v Sutton Coldfield, Rothwell v Dudley Town, Tamworth v RC Warwick.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Aylesbury; Chesham v Enfield; Dulwich v Molesey, Hendon v Wokingham Marlow v Purfleet, Slough v Carshalton, St Albans v Harrow; Sutton United v Kingstonian. Walton and Hersham v Hayes, Yeading v Hitchin First division: Abingdon Town v Worthing, Aldershot Town v Newbury; Billericay v Dorking, Bognor Regis v Barking, Boreham Wood v Ruislip Manor; Chertsey v Basingstoke, Heybridge Swifts v Berkhamsted, Leyton v Wivenhoe, Maidenhead v Staines, Wembley v Tooting and Mitcham Whyteleafe v Uxbridge Second division: Aveley v Banstead; Barton v Thame; Egham v Edgware, Hemel Hempstead v Bracknell, Hungerford v Chalfont St Peter, Leatherhead v Windsor and Eton, Malden Vale v Witham; Metropolitan Police v Tilbury; Oxford City v Chesham, Sahron Walden v Hampton, Were v Croydon. Third division: Bedford Town v Tring, Camberley v Feltham and Hounslow, Canvey Island v Rackwell Heath, Collier Row v East Thurrock, Epsom and Ewell v Hertford, Kingsbury v Cove; Leighton v Horsham, Lewes v Harefield, Southall v Clapton.

UNISOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow v Boston, Colwyn Bay v Matlock, Gusseley v Knowsley, Marine v Horwich, Spennymoor v Emley; Whitley Bay v Chorley First division: Bamber Bridge v Worksop, Curzon Ashton v Lancaster, Fleetwood v Radcatfle; Goole v Ashton United Great Harwood v Farsley Celtic; Gretna v Caernarfon, Harrogate Town v Blyth Spartans, Netherfield v Alfreton Warrington v Eastwood Town; Workington v Congleton

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Great Wakering Rovers v Basildon, Hullbridge Sports v Bowers, Maldon v Romford.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Harwell v Croydon, Haringey v Hillingdon.

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Eton Wick v Horley; Hartley Wintney v Cranleigh, Netherne v Ashford; Viking Sports v Westfield

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta v Shillington, Langford v Biggleswade; Royston v Milton Keynes, Welwyn Garden City v Aylesey Town, Wingate and Finchley v Buckingham Athletic

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss v Wroxham, Felixstowe v Watton, Great Yarmouth v March, Hadleigh U v Histon, Haverhill v Chatteris, Lowestoft v Woodbridge, Soham v Tiptree, Stowmarket v Cornard, Sudbury v Newmarket; Wisbech v Harwich and Parkeston.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v Fleet; Aerostructures v Bournemouth, Andover v B.A.T., Bemerton Heath v Lymington; Brockenhurst v Cowes Sports, East Cowes v Downton; Horndean v Wimborne, Petersfield v Gosport, Portsmouth v Swanage and Herston, Ryde Sports v Eastleigh, Thatcham v Christchurch.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Ringmer, Hailsham v Pagham, Langney Sports v Three Bridges; Oakwood v Portfield; Peacehaven/Telscombe v Littlehampton; Shoreham v Burgess Hill, Stamco v Wick; Whitehawk v Crowborough

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Corinthian; Cray v Whitstable; Crockenhill v Herne Bay; Folkestone Invicta v Slade Green; Furness v Deal, Kent Police v Canterbury; Ramsgate v Dartford; Tunbridge Wells v Sheppey

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Abingdon, Banbury v Highworth; Cinderford v Tuffley, North Leigh v Pegasus Juniors; Shortwood v Kintbury.

SKOL MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch Villa v Upton; Chelmsley v Wellesbourne; Coleshill v West Midland Fire Service; Handrahan Timbers v Northfield; Highgate v Olton Royale; Kings Heath v Studley B.K.L., Knowle v Bloxwich; Meir KA v Shirley.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bilston v Stourport; Cradley v Walsall Wood F.C., Darlaston v Blakenall, Gornal v Lye; Malvern v Bloxwich; Pelsall Villa v Stafford; Tividale F.C v Ludlow; Wednesfield v Westfields.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Consby v Hucknall; Glasshoughton Wel. v Hallam; North Ferriby v Belper Town; Ossett Town v Brigg; Pontefract Collieries v Ossett Albion, Sheffield v Lincoln United; Thackley v Pickering

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bacup v St. Helens; Blackpool Rovers v Darwen, Bootle v Chadderton; Bradford Park Avenue v Mains Road, Eastwood H v Penrith; Nantwich v Holker Old Boys; Rossendale v Newcastle Town

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Guisborough v Hebburn.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City v Chelsea, Southampton v Portsmouth (at The Dell).

PONTINS LEAGUE: Second division: Burnley v Oldham (2.0).

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Leyton Orient, Tottenham v Chelsea, West Ham v Ipswich. Second division: Bournemouth v Bristol City; Brighton v Crystal Palace; Bristol Rovers v Wimbledon; Southampton v Oxford United.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Clapham v Cardinal Manning, Glyn v Chertsey; O Aloysians v O Tenisonians, O Danes v O Meadonians; O Hamptonians v O Ignatians. Senior first division: O Kingsburians v O Isleworthians, O Salvatorians v O Edmontonsians. Shene v O Suttonians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: East Barnet OG v Norsemen; Winchmore Hill v Nat West Bank. Second division: O Parmiterians v Lansbury

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Wright Cup: Semi-final: Vale of White Horse v Bournemouth (at Wantage, 10.30), Thornton Trophy: Semi-final: West London v Hackney (at Barn Elms, 10.30). Mitre Cup: Final: Highbury Grove v Holloway (at Chase Lodge, 10.30).

HOCKEY

NORWICH UNION COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round: Aldershot Army, Berkshire, Essex, Royal Navy, Somerset, Bedford: Bedfordshire, Cumbria, RAF, Warwicks, Lloyds Bank HC, Beckenham: Kent, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Staffordshire Brooklands HC: Channel Isles, Cheshire, Dorset, Durham, Herefordshire, Doncaster: Lancashire, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Surrey, Yorkshire Ipswich: Cornwall, Devon, Isle of Man, Oxon, Suffolk, Lincoln: Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, Beeston HC, Nottingham: Cambridgeshire, Nottinghamshire, Sussex, Wiltshire, Worcestershire.

TOURNAMENT: Harleston Magpies (Men and Women).

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: London Monarchs v Scottish Claymores (Murrayfield, 4.0).

CYCLING: Thwaites Brewery GP four-day race (Third stage: Morecambe-Accrington 83 miles, 10.30 Fourth stage: City centre race, 29 miles Accrington, 4.0). National Ten Miles Championship (Wolvey, 9.0).

EQUESTRIANISM: Badminton Horse Trials.

SNOOKER: *Dr Marten's European League.* Final: (Irthlingborough).

SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated): Premier League: Glasgow v Poole (6.30). British Academy: Middemiall v Linlithgow (3.30); Sittingbourne v Berwick (2.0).

TENNIS: Men's and women's satellite tournaments (Edinburgh).

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Aston v Mayfield (3.0), Heworth v Egremont (3.0), Saddleworth v Leigh M W (3.0); Wigan St Patricks v West Hull (3.0); Wooiston v Hamel Hempstead (3.0).

RUGBY UNION

Pilkington Cup
Final
Bath v Wasps (at Twickenham, 3.0)

Pilkington Shield
Final
Bedford Queens v St Albans (at Twickenham, 12.0)

Swalec Cup
Final
Pontypridd v Swansea (at Cardiff Arms Park, 3.0)

International matches
Italy v Ireland (at Treviso, 5.45)
Spain v Scotland (at University Campus, Madrid 5.0)

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four

CHELMSFORD: Essex v Worcestershire
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Northamptonshire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Durham
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Yorkshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Hampshire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Gloucestershire
HOVE: Sussex v Kent
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Surrey

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: World Boxing Council International super-bantamweight championship: Nasseem Hamed (Sheffield, holder) v Enrique Angeles (Mex) (Shepton Mallet)

CYCLING: Thwaites Brewery GP four-day road race (Second stage, Preston-Rawtenstall, 77 miles, 9.45). Hachin Nomads 25 miles (Tempsford, 4.0).

EQUESTRIANISM: Badminton Horse Trials.

LACROSSE: Men's Premiership Qualifying round: Timperley v Meior, Cheadle v Hillcroft, Stockport v Heaton Mersey; Kenton v Poynton.

SNOOKER: Dr Marten's European League Semi-finals: S Davis v K Doherty (12.0); J White v S Hendry (8.0) (Irthlingborough).

SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated): Premier League: Bradford v Poole; Cradley Heath v Glasgow; Eastbourne v Long Eaton; King's Lynn v Edinburgh; Swindon v Coventry; British Academy: Buxton v Linlithgow; Stoke v Berwick.

TENNIS: Men's and women's satellite tournaments (Edinburgh).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Carling Premiership
Man Utd v Sheff Wednesday (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
* Bolton v Burnley
Luton v Stoke
Millwall v Bristol City
Port Vale v Notts County
Portsmouth v Oldham
* Reading v Charlton
Southend v Barnsley
* Sunderland v West Bromwich
Tranmere v Middlesbrough
Watford v Derby
Wolverhampton v Swindon

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Celtic v Rangers (2.0)

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Final: Derry v Shelbourne (at Lansdowne Road)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter championship
First division premiership
First round
Castleford v Warrington (3.30)
St Helens v Halifax (3.0)
Wigan v Sheffield (3.0)

Second division premiership
First round
Batley v Dewsbury (3.15)
Huddersfield v Rochdale (3.30)
Keighley v Hull K R (3.15)

CRICKET

Axa Equity & Law League
1.0, 40 overs
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Northamptonshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Surrey
2.0,
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Durham
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Yorkshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Hampshire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Gloucestershire
HOVE: Sussex v Kent
2.05
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Worcestershire

HOCKEY

HA YOUTH CUP: Finals: Under-18 (Cannock), Under-16 (Birmingham Univ)

AEWHA CUP: *Semi-finals:* Exmouth v Highdown (12.30, Exmouth Community Coll, Gipsy Lane). Trojans v Balsam Leicester (1.0, Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh). Plate semi-finals: Kettering v Liverpool (3.15, Kettering LV, Northampton Rd), West Bromwich v Crimson Ramblers (1.30, Tividale CS)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: London Monarchs v Scottish Claymores (Murrayfield, 4.0).

CYCLING: Thwaites Brewery GP four-day race (Third stage: Morecambe-Accrington 83 miles, 10.30 Fourth stage: City centre race, 29 miles Accrington, 4.0). National Ten Miles Championship (Wolvey, 9.0).

EQUESTRIANISM: Badminton Horse Trials.

SNOOKER: *Dr Marten's European League.* Final: (Irthlingborough).

SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated): Premier League: Glasgow v Poole (6.30). British Academy: Middemiall v Linlithgow (3.30); Sittingbourne v Berwick (2.0).

TENNIS: Men's and women's satellite tournaments (Edinburgh).

NORWICH UNION COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round: Aldershot Army, Berkshire, Essex, Royal Navy, Somerset, Bedford: Bedfordshire, Cumbria, RAF, Warwicks, Lloyds Bank

Dunlop to saddle third 1,000 Guineas winner as Newmarket stages historic Sunday meeting

Unbeaten Aqaarid can graduate to classic academy



Julian Muscat previews the fillies' showpiece and believes Carson's judgment will be fully vindicated

I HAVE some sympathy, if you will, for William Hunter Carson, who has agonised over a dilemma the envy of his weighing-room colleagues. There may not be many more classics awaiting Carson, 53. It would be cruel indeed for instinct to betray him now.

In Harayir and Aqaarid, Carson had the pick of two outstanding candidates for the Madagans 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket tomorrow. But the similarities extend only to their credentials and the fact that they are distantly related. In every other respect, the two fillies are as chalk and cheese. Harayir, a precocious two-year-old, owes much to the influence of her sire, Gulch, himself a son of the speed influence, Mr Prospector.

Aqaarid, a late developer, mirrors her own sire, Nashwan, a talented juvenile but demonstrably better, as Carson will testify, in his classic season. With precious little evidence to compare Harayir with Aqaarid, who can blame Carson if sentiment has coloured his choice? The jockey's approach will have been to examine the possible flaws. In Harayir's case, the two blemishes on her otherwise impressive record are her unexpected defeat in the Cheveley Park Stakes and her succumbing to Diffident in the European Free Handicap.

Interestingly, both races were on this course. And Harayir, a horse of size and substance, looked comfortable in both contests until she raced into the famous Dip, some 300 yards from the finish. Having initially leaned towards Harayir, perhaps Carson revised his opinion with that in mind. Whatever his reasons, I believe he has chosen correctly.

Harayir's defeat in the Cheveley Park was attributed to her having shed her summer coat. However, she was similarly wintry before the Free Handicap. It did not stop her running one of her best races, albeit in defeat.

By contrast, the greatest tribute to Aqaarid is her unbeaten record, which embraces two group races. And she recently followed the same path trodden by Salsabil and Shadayid — like Aqaarid, both graduates from John Dunlop's stable — with a decisive victory in the Fred Darling Stakes. Aqaarid can now join those fillies on the 1,000 Guineas roll of honour.

Harayir, who will be ridden by Richard Hills, has yet to race over a mile. Although Macoumba, the French challenger, boasts winning form over that distance, her connections suspect she may prove better over sprint trips.

Another with possible stamina limitations is Myself, a decisive winner — from Epagris — of the Nell Gwyn Stakes here last month. Like Harayir, her group-race campaign last season centred on races over six furlongs. Myself has yet to tackle a mile, although it is worth recording that the last Nell Gwyn winner to be dismissed as conclusively as Myself was Pebbles, subsequently one of the outstanding post-war racemares.

Moonshell, the challenger from Dubai, is a different proposition. A daughter of the omnipotent Sadler's Wells, Moonshell owes her exultant place in the betting as much to her solitary juvenile outing as to the achievements of Balanchine, last year's sensation from the desert state.

To judge by their finishing positions in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury, Hoh Magic, Autumn Affair, All Time Great and Gay Gallanta must all summon improvement beyond expectation to trouble AQAARID. Harayir and Myself are taken to follow her home.

2,000 Guineas, page 42



MARTIN LYNCH

Harayir, a close second to Diffident in the Free Handicap, will be the mount of Richard Hills in tomorrow's 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket

BIG RACE FOCUS

3.45 MADAGANS 1,000 GUINEAS STAKES C4
(Group I: 3-Y-O fillies: £110,791: 1m) (15 runners)

401 (7) 15-4 ALL TIME GREAT (Helena Springfield) L Cumani 9-0 J Weaver 84
(b f Night Shift - Someone Special) (Black, white spots, black sleeves, white cap)

402 (13) 11-1 AQAARID (D) (H Al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0 W Carson 93
(b f Nashwan - Ashayer) (Royal blue, white epaulets, striped cap)

403 (9) 02261-3 AUTUMN AFFAIR (R Ricketts) C Britain 9-0 B Doyle 87
(b f Lugana Beach - Miss Chalk) (Black and white (halved), check cap, light blue sleeves)

404 (8) 11140- BRIEF GLIMPSE (Whiteaves Racing) D Chappell 9-0 B Thomson 77
(b f Taufan - Mist Look) (Dark green and yellow diamonds, hooped cap)

405 (4) 401-0 BRING ON THE CHOIR (B Gover) R Boss 9-0 K Darley 89
(b f Chief Singer - Primulette) (Black and white diamonds, diabolo on sleeves)

406 (1) 1-2 EPAGRIS (C) (Mrs H Cantlanis) H Cecil 9-0 W Ryan 88
(ch f Zalazl - Trillynia) (Black, white spots, black cap)

407 (12) 31623-4 FLEET HILL (C) (Mrs A Ferguson) M Channon 9-0 R Hughes 81
(b f Warrshan - Adrian Honey) (Black and gold stripes, gold sleeves, red cuffs, red and white striped cap)

408 (11) 51251-5 GAY GALLANTA (C) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 9-0 W R Swinburn 98
(ch f Woodman - Gallanta) (Red, white sash, royal blue cap)

409 (2) 1213-2 HARAYIR (H Al-Maktoum) W Hern 9-0 R Hills 98
(b f Gulch - Saffaanh) (Royal blue, white epaulets, red cap)

410 (15) 31114-2 HOH MAGIC (D Allport) M Bell 9-0 M Hills 96
(ch f Cadeaux Genereux - Gunner's Belle) (Red, black chevrons, white sleeves, black armlets, white cap)

411 (10) 11-1 MACOUMBA (D) (Haras d'Etrehan) Mme C Head (Fr) 9-0 F Head 92
(b f Mr Prospector - Miasmova) (White, dark blue cap)

412 (5) 31110-0 MENAS GOLD (D) (T Mountain) S Dow 9-0 T Quinn 72
(b f Heights Of Gold - Talaoneza) (Maroon, yellow seams, black and yellow hooped cap)

413 (6) 1- MOONSHELL (D) (M Al-Maktoum/Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-0 L Dettori 76
(b f Sadler's Wells - Moon Cactus) (Royal blue, white chevron, light blue cap)

414 (14) 12325-1 MYSELF (C) (Bloomsbury Stud) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 J Reid 93
(ch f Nashwan - Pushy) (Purple and white stripes, black velvet cap, gold tassel)

415 (3) 403333- QUEENFISHER (K Higson) R Hannon 9-0 B Rouse 83
(b f Scottish Reel - Marahna) (Royal blue, white cross of Lorraine, red cap, white spots)

BETTING: 5-2 Aqaarid, 7-2 Harayir, 5-1 Moonshell, 7-1 Myself, 8-1 Macoumba, Epagris, 16-1 Gay Gallanta, Hoh Magic, 50-1 All Time Great, Autumn Affair, 66-1 Brief Glimpse, 100-1 Queenfisher, 150-1 Bring On The Choir, Fleet Hill, 200-1 Menas Gold.

1994: LAS MENINAS 9-0 J Reid (12-1) T Stack (Ire) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE TO THE 15 CONTENDERS

ALL TIME GREAT
Apr 21, Newbury, good to firm: see Aqaarid.
Oct 1 1994, Newmarket, good: (8-9) 5l 6th to Hiwaya (8-9) (7f, listed, £9,768, 8 ran).
Sep 9 1994, Goodwood, good: (8-6) beat Behaviour (9-0) 1¼l (6f, mdn, £4,178, 11 ran).

AQAARID
Apr 21, Newbury, good to firm: (9-0) beat Hoh Magic (9-0) 2½l with Autumn Affair (9-0) head 3rd, All Time Great (9-0) 1½l 4th and Gay Gallanta (9-0) neck 5th (7f 64yd, gp III, £22,740, 8 ran).
Sep 24 1994, Ascot, good to soft: (8-10) beat Jural (8-10) ½l (1m, gp I, £94,635, 9 ran).
Jul 22 1994, Ascot, good to firm: (8-11) beat Alusha (8-11) neck (6f, mdn, £10,770, 9 ran).

AUTUMN AFFAIR
Apr 21, Newbury, good to firm: see Aqaarid.
Sep 22 1994, Ascot, good to soft: (9-2) beat Pastel (9-7) 1l (6f, nursery, £10,179, 11 ran).
Sep 7 1994, Doncaster, good: (8-13) 5l 6th to The Jotter (9-7) (6f 110yd, nursery, £19,737, 16 ran).
May 30 1994, Sandown, good to soft: see Bring On The Choir.

BRIEF GLIMPSE
Oct 13 1994, Redcar, good: (8-2) 3½l 7th to Maid For Walking (7-13) (6f, cond, £89,619, 26 ran).
Aug 18 1994, York, good to firm: see Harayir.
Jul 16 1994, Newbury, good to firm: (8-2) beat Femme Savante (8-1) short-head (5f, cond, £68,778, 16 ran).

BRING ON THE CHOIR
Apr 15, Kempton, good to firm: see Fleet Hill.
May 30 1994, Sandown, good to soft: (8-11) beat Midnight Break (8-11) 2½l with Autumn Affair (8-11) short-head 3rd and Gay Gallanta (8-11) short-head and 2l 5th (5f, mdn, £3,909, 11 ran).
May 10 1994, York, good to firm: (8-11) 9¾l 7th to Millstream (8-11) (5f, mdn, £5,110, 8 ran).

EPAGRIS
Apr 18, Newmarket, good to firm: see Myself.
Oct 1 1994, Newmarket, good: (8-11) beat Aldaneh (8-11) 10l (6f, mdn, £5,734, 11 ran).

FLEET HILL
Apr 15, Kempton, good to firm: (8-11) 3l 4th to Subya (8-11) with Bring On The Choir (8-8) 3½l 7th and Menas Gold (8-8) 3l 9th (1m, list, £13,118, 13 ran).
Oct 14 1994, Newmarket, good to firm: (8-8) head and 1l 3rd to Germane (8-8) (7f, gp III, £19,014, 8 ran).
Sep 16 1994, San Siro, heavy: (8-10) neck 2nd to Louis' Queen (8-8) (7f 110yd, list, £17,766, 9 ran).
Jul 27 1994, Goodwood, firm: see Queenfisher.

GAY GALLANTA
Apr 21, Newbury, good to firm: see Aqaarid.
Sep 27 1994, Newmarket, good: (8-11) beat Tanami (8-11) ½l with Harayir (8-11) 1¾l 3rd, Hoh Magic (8-11) short-head 4th and Myself (8-11) head 5th (6f, gp I, £76,575, 10 ran).
Sep 17 1994, Newbury, soft: (8-6) 2¼l 3rd to Princely Hush (8-11) (6f, gp II, £31,909, 9 ran).
Aug 18 1994, York, good to firm: see Harayir.
May 30 1994, Sandown, good to soft: see Bring On The Choir.

HARAYIR
Apr 19 1994, Newmarket, good to firm: (9-7) 1¼l 2nd to Diffident (9-5) (7f, list hcp, £16,425, 12 ran).
Sep 27 1994, Newmarket, good: see Gay Gallanta.
Aug 18 1994, York, good to firm: (8-11) beat Gay Gallanta (9-0) 3l with Brief Glimpse (8-11) 2½l 4th (6f, gp II, £43,477, 6 ran).

HOH MAGIC
Apr 21, Newbury, good to firm: see Aqaarid.
Sep 27 1994, Newmarket, good: see Gay Gallanta.
Aug 21 1994, Deauville, soft: (8-10) beat Bruttina (8-10) 1½l (6f, gp I, £91,553, 6 ran).

MACOUMBA
Apr 15, Evry, good: (9-2) beat Smolensk (9-2) 1½l (6f 110yd, list, £16,766, 6 ran).
Oct 2 1994, Longchamp, good to soft: (8-11) beat Piquetnol (8-11) nose (1m, gp I, £91,533, 6 ran).
Sep 6 1994, Longchamp, good: (9-2) beat Nymphea Bleu (9-2) 1½l (1m, mdn, £9,153, 7 ran).

MENAS GOLD
Apr 15, Kempton, good to firm: see Fleet Hill.
Sep 8 1994, Doncaster, good: (8-8) 5½l 8th to Mamlakah (8-8) (1m, gp III, £26,976, 11 ran).
Sep 1 1994, York, good: (9-7) beat Star Witness (9-3) 2½l (1m, nurs, £7,765, 9 ran).

MOONSHELL
Oct 21 1994, Doncaster, good to soft: (8-11) beat Finus (8-11) 3l (1m, mdn, £4,482, 15 ran).

MYSELF
Apr 18, Newmarket, good to firm: (8-9) beat EPAGRIS (8-9) 2½l (7f, gp III, £22,589, 8 ran).
Sep 27 1994, Newmarket, good: see Gay Gallanta.
Aug 12 1994, Newbury, good: (8-9) ¾l 2nd to Lammtarra (8-8) (7f, list, £8,773, 6 ran).

QUEENFISHER
Sep 2 1994, Baden-Baden, good: (8-11) 2l 3rd to promoted Green Perfume (9-2) (6f, gp II, £38,911, 9 ran).
Aug 26 1994, Baden-Baden, soft: (8-11) 4¼l 3rd to Tryphosa (8-7) (7f, list, 7 ran).
Jul 27 1994, Goodwood, firm: (8-6) 3½l 3rd to Eltish (8-11) with Fleet Hill (8-9) 4¼l 6th (7f, gp III, £23,380, 8 ran).

Selection: AQAARID

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

2.00 Desert Courier
2.30 Parthian Springs
3.05 Fanjica
3.45 MYSELF (nap)
4.20 Domulla
4.50 Sharp Falcon
5.25 Jandeel

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 TARHHIB (nap). 2.30 Blushing Flame. 5.25 Abu Simbel.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARDS

103 (12) 8-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,6,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 86

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. S — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J — jumps. F — flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.00 LORDS TAVERNERS SUNDAY EXPRESS CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £5,720: 7f) (7 runners) C4

101 (6) 1- DESERT COURIER 232 (S) (Mrs D Swinburn) M Stoute 9-1 W R Swinburn 98
102 (1) 4-1 MAGNIFICENT DEVIL 18 (C,F) (J Allbritton) J Watts 9-1 B Thomson 88
103 (4) 21-4 PEACE ENVOY 15 (D,6) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-1 W Ryan 89
104 (3) 1- WARNING SHOT 236 (S) (Cottenwood Racing) M Meade 9-1 J Reid 90
105 (7) 134553- PEARL VENTURE 234 (F) (Dr F Chao) S Woods 8-10 W Woods 88
106 (5) 1 TARHHIB 16 (D,F) (H Al-Maktoum) J Gosden 8-10 K Darley 88
107 (2) 0-4 OFFICE HOURS 15 (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 8-9

BETTING: 2-1 Desert Courier, 4-1 Peace Envoy, 9-2 Tarhhib, 5-1 Magnificent Devil, 6-1 Office Hours, 7-1 Warning Shot, 10-1 Pearl Venture.

1994: CRAZY PAVING 9-2 K Darley (12-1) C Cyzer 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

DESERT COURIER beat Didina head in 15-runner maiden at Newbury (6l, soft). MAGNIFICENT DEVIL beat Twice As Sharp 2½l in 12-runner maiden here (6l, good to firm) PEACE ENVOY 10¾l 4th of 9 to Celtic Swing in group III Greenham Stakes at Newbury (7f, good). WARNING SHOT beat Noble Neptune 1½l in 17-runner auction maiden at Sandown (5f, good to soft). PEARL VENTURE 3½l 3rd of 5 to Tanami in conditions race at Yarmouth (6f, soft). TARHHIB beat Farani head in 19-runner maiden at Newbury (7f, good to firm). OFFICE HOURS about 7¾l 4th of 24 to Lyrikos in maiden at Newbury (1m, good).
Selection: PEACE ENVOY

2.30 LADBROKE FIRST SUNDAY HANDICAP C4
(£18,468: 1m 4f) (13 runners)

201 (3) 154056- BEAUCHAMP HERO 183 (C,F,5) (E Penzoil) J Dunlop 5-10-0 J Reid 92
202 (1) 452510- MARSOOM 248 (CD,F,5) (H Salem) B Hanbury 4-9-13 J Weaver 88
203 (2) 44-11 PARTHIAN SPRINGS 18 (CD,F,5) (Hamdoon Stud) J Gosden 4-9-11 L Dettori 87
204 (4) 014210- ARCTIC THUNDER 232 (D,6) (P Savill) Lady Herries 4-9-6 K Darley 87
205 (9) 00000-1 WISHING 22 (C,D,F,S) (A Spence) R Akehurst 4-9-6 B Carter 92
206 (10) 16415-2 BLUSHING FLAME 20 (D,F,6) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 4-8-4 W R Swinburn 95
207 (5) 18010-8 ENDLESS LIGHT 22 (D,F,6) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 4-8-4 T Quinn 88
208 (8) 60-0600 RAINBOW WALK 43 (V,D,6) (T K Cunningham) J O'Shea 5-8-13 J Stack (5) 89
209 (13) 033540/ HIGHBROOK 155i (CD,6) (N Cook) M Pipe 7-8-10 P Robinson –
210 (12) 32215-1 TUDOR ISLAND 19 (C,F,6) (D Stelli) C Britain 5-8-8 M Rimmer 92
211 (5) 5020-00 BIT ON THE SIDE 22 (CD,G,S) (M Hewlett) W Musson 6-8-4 P McCabe (5) 88
212 (11) 1/12-014 BAYRAK 11 (D,6) (A Read) M Ryan 5-8-1 W Carson 96
213 (7) 23110-0 MICROLITE 19 (V,C,CD,F) (J Brown) M Hammond 4-7-13 D Wright (3) 89

BETTING: 9-2 Parthian Springs, 5-1 Blushing Flame, Wishing, 6-1 Tudor Island, 8-1 Beauchamp Hero, 10-1 Arctic Thunder, Endless Light, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

BEAUCHAMP HERO about 2l 5th of 15 to Whitechapel in handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start. MARSOOM beat Foundry Lane 1¾l in 15-runner handicap at York (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. PARTHIAN SPRINGS completed double over Coldren's Choice 2l in 20-runner handicap over course and Choice 2l in 20-runner handicap over this course and distance (good to firm). ARCTIC THUNDER best distance (good to firm). ARCTIC THUNDER beat Jazeer 1l in an 8-runner handicap at York (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start with MARSOOM (4lb better off) 8½l 7th. WISHING beat Shadow Leader a neck in 17-runner handicap at Kempton (1m 4f, good to firm) with ENDLESS NIGHT (5lb better off) about 4½l 7th and BIT ON THE SIDE (6lb better off) 7½l 13th. BLUSHING FLAME neck 2nd of 22 to Special Dawn in handicap at Kempton (1m 2f, good to firm). HIGHBROOK about 2l 4th of 21 to Derah in handicap over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start. Oct 1993 BAYRAK best Fox Sparrow 5l in 6-runner conditions race at Thirsk (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: PARTHIAN SPRINGS (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%
D Loder	11	56	19.6
H Cecil	48	266	18.0
P Chapple-Hyam	18	109	16.7
Lady Herries	6	36	16.7
J Gosden	51	316	16.1

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
R Hughes	3	12	25.0
M J Kinane	13	68	19.1
W R Swinburn	57	351	16.2
J Weaver	15	102	14.7
L Dettori	63	480	13.1

3.05 MADAGANS PRETTY POLLY STAKES C4
(Listed race: 3-Y-O fillies: £12,106: 1m 2f) (8 runners)

301 (2) 33321-4 GERMANE 19 (C,F) (E Kessly) M Bell 9-1 M Fenton 97
302 (6) 001201- CIRCA 197 (G,S) (M Abdullah) W Jarvis 8-13 L Dettori 97
303 (1) 56215-0 MUSETTA 22 (S) (B York) C Britain 8-11 B Doyle 94
304 (4) 531- ALESSIA 190 (C,S) (D Deer) B Hills 8-8 M J Hills 83
305 (3) 51210- ALFIASELAH 199 (G,S) (Sheikh Ahmed Al-Maktoum) M Stoute 8-8 M J Kinane 92
306 (7) 51212- FANJICA 177 (S) (Diamond Thoroughbreds) J Dunlop 8-8 T Quinn 89
307 (8) 414- LUA 190 (S) (Capt J Macdonald-Buchanan) J Dunlop 8-8 W Carson 92
308 (5) 11430- WATCH THE CLOCK 241 (F) (Cheveley Park Stud) D Loder 8-8 J Weaver 98

BETTING: 3-1 Alessia, 9-2 Germane, 5-1 Alfiaselah, 6-1 Watch The Clock, 7-1 Lua, 8-1 Fanjica, 10-1 others.

1994: WIND IN HER HAIR 8-8 R Hills (9-4 fav) J Hills 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

GERMANE 5l 4th of 8 to Myself in group III Nell Gwyn Stakes here (7f, good to firm). CIRCA beat Hiwaya head in 9-runner listed race at Newbury (7f 54yd, heavy). ALESSIA beat Jumaimah Sun head in 17-runner maiden here (7f, good to soft). ALFIASELAH beat Chanelek short-head in 5-runner conditions race at Haydock (1m, soft) on penultimate start. FANJICA 3½l 2nd of 12 to Olimpia Dukakis in group III Premio Dormello at San Siro (1m, very heavy). LUA 5½l 4th of 9 to KRI The Coal in group III JRA Kikuenkinen Stakes at Nagasdalown (1m, good to yielding). WATCH THE CLOCK short-head and neck 3rd of 10 to Jural in listed race here (7f, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: FANJICA

3.45 MADAGANS 1,000 GUINEAS STAKES C4
(Group I: 3-Y-O fillies: £110,791: 1m) (15 runners)

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE ABOVE

4.20 R L DAVISON RATED HANDICAP (£9,295: 6f) (11 runners)

501 (4) 0550-13 MONTENDRE 19 (CD,F,5) (D Mer) M McCormack 8-9-7 J Reid 90
502 (8) 2116-30 DOUBLE BLUE 19 (CD,F,6,S) (R Huggins) M Johnston 5-9-5 J Weaver 93
503 (10) 034000- MASTER PLANNER 190 (CD,F,6) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 6-8-11 K Darley 98
504 (2) 50443-8 LORD OLIVIER 15 (D,F,6) (Miss V Jarvis) W Jarvis 5-8-10 N Varley (5) 93
505 (6) 000040- CRICKETON'S PAL 191 (D,F) (Miss E Macgregor) C Britain 4-8-10 M Rimmer 93
506 (9) 4/03-006 CALL ME I'M BLUE 15 (C,D,6,S) (Hanik (Qatar)) N Tinkler 5-8-10 M Tebbutt 90
507 (11) 1500-06 WELSH MIST 19 (D,F,6) (P Asquith) R Boss 4-8-9 W Ryan 89
508 (3) 1450/04 SNIPE HALL 16 (CD,F,6,S) (F Agnew) T Watson 4-8-7 Dean McKeown 93
509 (11) 12053-6 ALZIANAH 29 (D,6,S) (Sheikh Amin Dahlawi) J Bethell 4-8-7 W Carson 98
510 (5) 36100-0 DARREN BOY 18 (CD,F,6) (D Allport) P Cole 4-8-7 T Quinn 86
511 (7) 3030-21 DOMULLA 22 (D,6,S) (A Boost) R Akehurst 5-8-7 L Dettori 98

Long handicap: Darren Boy 8-5, Domulla 8-5

BETTING: 9-2 Montendre, 5-1 Domulla, 7-1 Alzianah, Double Blue, 8-1 Lord Olivier, Snipe Hall, 10-1 Call Me I'm Blue, 12-1 others.

1994: MASTER PLANNER 5-8-8 J D Smith (10-1) C Cyzer 15 ran

4.50 SUNDAY EXPRESS BEST FOR SPORT SERIES HANDICAP
(Qualifier: £5,833: 1m 2f) (20 runners)

601 (16) 0/320- EBEN AL HABEEB 274 (H Al-Maktoum) W Hern 4-10-0 W Carson 84
602 (10) 416346- SOVEREIGN PASE 200 (D,F,6) (Mrs B Hanbury) B Hanbury 5-9-9 R Hughes 89
603 (13) 4/3231-0 SILVER HUNTER 18 (D,F) (A Mackrill Partners) G Bravery 4-9-9 M Hills 87
604 (18) 661503- LOWAWATHA 200 (D,F,6,S) (H Lunn) D Morris 7-9-6 R Price 93
605 (7) 04612-2 SUPERLUMINAL 31 (D,S) (W Gredley) G Rimmer 4-9-6 M Rimmer 97
606 (3) 6332-53 SHARP FALCON 18 (D,F,S) (G Mills) J Wharton 4-9-5 J Reid 96
607 (14) 3000-35 SAREY AMA 12 (Diplomacy Racing) B Hanbury 4-9-2 K Darley 94
608 (6) 662222 TU OPES 50 (F,6) (Ms S Miller) J L Harris 4-9-2 Dale Gibson 92
609 (5) 253013- RIVAL BID 197J (D,F,6) (D Allbaugh) M Jarvis 7-9-0 L Dettori 94
610 (9) 0/0610- ACCESS ADVENTURER 334 (D,6) (Miss E Williams) R Boss 4-9-0 W Ryan 93
611 (8) 31130-4 SHABANAZ 12 (CD,G,S) (Fayad Thoroughbred) W Muir 10-8-13 J Weaver 91
612 (15) 061-224 CHATHAM ISLAND 22 (D,F,S) (B Vick) C Britain 7-8-13 B Doyle 89
613 (20) 211140 KAAFIR HOMM 18 (D,6) (Gallagher Materials Ltd) N Callaghan 4-8-10 B Thomson 89
614 (17) F0004-0 NO SPEECHES 20 (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 4-8-8 T Quinn 88
615 (11) 502560- EL BARLADOR 194 (Mrs John Lee) J Bethell 4-8-8 R Hills 95
616 (12) 0-36 COLLEGE NIGHT 11 (Mrs C Dunnett) John Berry 3-8-6 C Dwyer 98
617 (4) 60242-0 AVUBU 13 (I Southcott) S Williams 4-8-5 D Wright (3) 87
618 (2) 23U-422 HERR TRIGGER 48 (D,6) (The Ibex Crowd) J Scargill 4-8-1 M Fenton 89
619 (19) 05-0 ELPIDA 11 (A Thompson) J Pearce 3-7-8 G Bardwell 91
620 (1) 300-043 SILIKTAL 8 (Mrs M Crane) John Berry 3-7-7 N Kennedy 95

BETTING: 7-1 Sharp Falcon, 8-1 Chatham Island, Superluminal, 10-1 Shabanaz, Sarey Ama, Rival Bid, Eben Al Habeeb, 12-1 Herr Trigger, College Night. 14-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

5.25 MADAGANS COMPANY SERVICES MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £5,085: 1m) (8 runners)

1 (1) 22 ABU SIMBEL 15 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 L Dettori 89
2 (3) ALMUHIMM (M Al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0 W R Swinburn –
3 (2) .. 22 BANADAM 20 (S Schaft) B Hanbury 9-0 W Ryan 97
4 (6) JANDEEL (Sheikh Ahmed Al-Maktoum) A Stewart 9-0 M J Kinane –
5 (5) 26-00 NERO KRIS 13 (D Pedroni) P Kelleway 9-0 M Wigham 90
6 (4) TROUETTI (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 9-0 J Weaver –

BETTING: 2-1 Banadam, 11-4 Abu Simbel, 4-1 Trouetti, 9-2 Jandeel, 8-1 Almuhimm, 25-1 Nero Kris.

1994: SEISMOGRAPH 9-0 Pat Eddery (8-11) H Ibrahim (UAE) 11 ran

☐ The Newmarket course was not watered yesterday evening. Nick Lees, the clerk of the course, said: "The ground is good, the horses have left a good print and the race times today were not particularly fast." Lees added that the track could be watered tonight in preparation for tomorrow's programme which features the Madagans 1,000 Guineas.

Desert Courier can deliver on time

NEWMARKET
C4

2.00: Desert Courier is an enticing prospect. He mastered the more experienced Didina on his debut and that filly boosted the form when defeating Prince Arthur, the subsequent Italian 2,000 Guineas winner, next time out. *Magnificent Devil* showed good speed when winning here last month but the form does not amount to much. Tarhhib, who justified support on her Newbury debut, looks a bigger danger than Peace Envoy, who disappointed last time.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.30: Parthian Springs looked in trouble before rallying for a comfortable victory last time. With the ground again riding fast, he looks worth opposing. Wishing narrowly landed a gamble at Kempton last month. He must have been fit but **Endless Light**, four lengths behind, can now turn the tables on 5lb better terms. Paul Cole's horse is only 3lb higher than when running away with a Newbury handicap last season. *Blushing Flame* will appreciate this longer trip after a good run over ten furlongs recently.

3.05: Llia, who improved for each of her three races last term, is narrowly preferred to Alessia. John Dunlop's filly rounded off her campaign with a decent run in Ireland and has the pedigree for this ten furlongs. *Musetta*, most disappointing last time, can do much better. Both of Fanjica's wins in Italy came on heavy ground. Germane has the best form but has a 7lb penalty.

3.45: See above.

JULIAN MUSCAT

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BLUSHING FLAME
(2.30 Newmarket)
Next best: Harayir
(3.45 Newmarket)

Tarry poised for double at Garthorpe

POINT-TO-POINT
BY BRIAN BEEL

JIM TARRY looks set to enhance his point-to-point title prospects at **Garthorpe** tomorrow when big crowds are expected for the second running of the National Festival.

His Fine Lace, a leading contender for the Grand Marnier trophy with six successes so far this season, is expected to win the open race, while Lucky Christopher appears to have an outstanding chance of capturing the intermediate.

Over 200 entries have been received for the six races, 50 of these being for the veterans' race where the lightly raced Fence Judge will be fully tested by his main opponent, Castlebay Lad.

Leading riders, Polly Curling and Alistair Crow, will be in action after respectively riding today at the Devon and Somerset and at the Pendle Forest.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Devon and Somerset, Holnicote, 3m west of Minehead (first race 2.00); Gelligaer, Magor, adjacent Junction 23, M4 (4.00); Lauderdale, Mosshouses, 4m N of Melrose (2.00); Modbury Harriers, Fleet Park, 2m N of Modbury (2.00); Old Surrey and Burstow, Penshurst, 4m SW of Tonbridge (2.00); Pendle Forest and Craven, Gisburn, 1m SW of town (2.00). TOMORROW: National Festival, Garthorpe, 5m E of Melton Mowbray (2.15).

SALISBURY

THUNDERER

2.15 Intiaash. 2.50 Wings Cove. 3.25 Kabil. 4.00 Passion For Life. 4.35 New Century. 5.10 Istidaad.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 5.30 ISTIDAAD.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 WOODFORD MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £4,370: 6f) (15 runners)

1 (14) 000- DARK MENACE 197 S Mellor 9-0 T Sprake 77
2 (9) -000 LOBIE PERT LAD 12 J Bridger 9-0 S Sanders (3) –
3 (11) 0-0 MOUSEHOLE 16 R Guest 9-0 G Hind –
4 (6) 0 RAAYAAT 18 A Stewart 9-0 S Whitworth –
5 (7) 25-4 SAMWAR 17 B Hills 9-0 D Holland 93
6 (10) 0- SILVER ACADEMY 192 Miss G Kelleway 9-0 G Duffield –
7 (3) 0-23 SILVER STING 20 I Balding 9-0 R Cochrane 98
8 (12) VAPORIZE D Hyde 9-0 W Newnes –
9 (11) WITH INTENT C James 9-0 A McGlone –
10 (2) 06 ZUMO FLYER 13 S Lewis 9-0 A Whelan (5) 74
11 (13) 0- BELLA COOLA 220 C Horgan 8-9 A Clark –
12 (4) 0-40 CHRISTMAS KISS 31 R Hannon 8-9 Dane O'Neill (7) 94
13 (15) 2-9 DAMSHA 15 S Dow 8-9 A Daly (7) 85
14 (5) 05-2 INTAAKH 12 P Walwyn 8-9 D Harrison (5) 88
15 (8) 0 PACIFIC OVERTURE 16 C Barwell 8-9 J Williams –

3-1 Samsar, 9-2 Silver Sting, 6-1 Christmas Kiss, 8-1 Intiaash, 10-1 Dawsha, Raayat, 14-1 others.

2.50 SMITH & WILLIAMSON HANDICAP
(£5,995: 1m 6f) (13)

1 (9) 33-1 MOKHTAR 27 (F) J Dunlop 4-9-10 G Duffield 91
2 (4) 42-3 BLAZE AWAY 20 (F,6) I Balding 4-9-5 R Cochrane 96
3 (3) 215- IRON GENT 16J (D,F) P Hobbs 4-9-3 A McGlone 88
4 (2) 2235 SHADOW LEADER 11 (S) Miss A Whitfield 4-9-2 D Harrison 97
5 (8) 4-00 WALSHAM WHISPER 18 (F) J Wharton 4-9-1 A Clark 98
6 (1) 00-5 WINGS COVE 13 (D,F) Lady Herries 5-9-1 J O'Dwyer (7) 93
7 (12) /0 JONJAS CHUDLEIGH 10J (F,6) W G M Turner 8-8-11 S Drowne (5) –
8 (6) -153 LALINDA 9 (S,6) D Elsworth 4-9-10 J Williams 95
9 (13) 0-00 CHEEP'S SONG 8 S Dow 5-8-6 A Daly (7) 94
10 (5) 6/ TAMARPOUR 1055 (F) M Pipe 8-8-4 T Sprake –
11 (11) 2204 PRIDE OF MAY 18 (D,F) R Hannon 4-8-3 D Holland 93
12 (7) 22-0 LA SPEZIA 13 (F,6) M Blanshard 5-7-11 Stephen Davies 98
13 (10) 6-00 HIGH FIVE 9 (D,6) D Wilson 5-7-5 J Quinn 94

9-2 Mokhtar, 5-1 Blaze Away, Wings Cove, 7-1 Shadow Leader, 8-1 Pride of May, Iron Gent, 10-1 Walsham Whisper, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 6 winners from 22 runners, 27.3%; A Stewart, 5 from 19, 26.3%; G Harwood, 12 from 59, 20.3%; D Wilson, 9 from 51, 17.6%; Lady Herries, 5 from 32, 15.6%; R Hannon, 41 from 277, 14.8%.

JOCKEYS: Dane O'Neill, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; D Harrison, 7 from 50, 14.0%; R Cochrane, 14 from 123, 11.4%. Only qualifiers.

3.25 GIBBS-MEW RATED HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £8,031: 6f) (10)

1 (5) 1-30 THE JOTTER 16 (D,6,S) W Jarvis 9-0 A McGlone 95
2 (3) 421- JBEREEN 228 (CD,B,S) G Lewis 8-12 S Whitworth 92
3 (

Celtic Swing to be crowned champion



Richard Evans anticipates Peter Savill's acclaimed colt will attain superstar status after colts' classic

NOTHING ventured, nothing gained. Celtic Swing will win the Madagans 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket today and be hailed as a new wonder horse deserving of a place alongside Tudor Minstrel, Brigadier Gerard, El Gran Senor et al.

That, at least, will be the hope of the majority of the expected 25,000 people drawn to the Rowley Mile course including, I readily confess, your correspondent.

Every sport needs superstars and the level of disappointment felt within racing if the near-black colt, owned by Peter Savill and trained by Lady Anne Herries, fails to deliver will be matched only by the gloom and despair being experienced within the inner confines of Downing Street. Needless to say, the 16-1 ante-post voucher, the proceeds of which have already been spent several times, has not affected my judgement.

Facts first. Any reading of the form book or interpretation of time performances has Celtic Swing well clear of his ten rivals. Geoffrey Gibbs, the senior handicapper, summed up the position aptly yesterday: "On our figures he would win by three or four lengths, but it is an amazingly theoretical exercise."

How right he is, and that is when the doubts begin to creep in. Although the times for yesterday's races were relatively slow, the ground was almost certainly faster than the official version of good. Firm patches were in evidence before proceedings began: a day of sweltering sunshine will mean Celtic Swing is likely to encounter the firmest ground of his career. Hardly ideal for a horse who pounds the ground with such force.

Then there is the way the race will be run. The best way to get a good horse beaten is to go at a mediocre pace. While Painter's Row is likely to be near the head of affairs, there are no trail-blazers and the small size of the field could mean there will be an early crawl.

All of which could mean Kevin Darley will have no option but to kick on into the lead on Celtic Swing far earlier than he would ideally wish. Few Guineas have been won from the front; more worrying for Darley will be the knowledge that he could be a sitting target for the André Fabre-trained pair of Pennekamp and Diffident, both of whom have proved they can quicken decisively towards the end of a race. Put that way, the 5-4 on offered about Celtic Swing hardly looks enticing.

Of the Fabre pair, there are real doubts over the ability of Diffident, the Free Handicap winner, to stay a mile and Pennekamp, the unbeaten Dewhurst Stakes winner, is the big threat. His home work of late has been outstanding and Europe's top trainer holds the Bering colt in the highest regard.

Of the remainder, Green Perfume progressed throughout last term, ending the season only a length behind Pennekamp in the Dewhurst at Newmarket. Paul Cole has his string in fine form and the step up to a mile should suit. The unbeaten Painter's Row gamely held Montjoy at bay in the Craven Stakes and will improve over further, but is certainly up to finishing in the first four.

However, the memory of the devastating way he disposed of opposition at Ascot, Doncaster and Newbury convinces me that **Celtic Swing** can gallop these rivals into the ground and earn his rightful place among the all-time greats.

Seven odds-on favourites have obliged this century, including the mighty Nijinsky at 7-4 on in 1970. The only one to be beaten was Apalachee in 1974.

In the opening Mayer Parry Conditions Stakes **Tamure** can justify entries in the Dante, Derby and Coral-Eclipse at expense of Sebastian, while **Baron Ferdinand** is marginally preferred in the closing Chippenham Park Conditions Stakes.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: JOBIE
(4.45 Newmarket)
Next best: Taufan's Melody
(2.30 Newmarket)

1,000 Guineas, page 4I

JULIAN HERBERT



Celtic Swing may be forced to make much of the running in the 2,000 Guineas

BIG-RACE RUNNERS

3.40 MADAGANS 2,000 GUINEAS STAKES — C4

(Group I. 3-Y-O colts and fillies: £117,912. 1m) (11 runners)

401 (1) 2221-2 BAHRI 14 (G) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0 W Carson 92
(b c Riverman - Wasnah) (Royal blue, white epaulets, striped cap)

402 (7) 111-1 CELTIC SWING 14 (D F G 5) (P Savill) Lady Herries 9-0 K Darley
(br c Damister - Celtic Rang) (Maroon, light blue sleeves, light blue cap, maroon diamond)

403 (6) 5341-4 CHILLY BILLY 16 (F) (G Shouler) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 N Fallon 83
(b c Master Willie - Sweet Snow) (Royal blue, white cross of lorraine, white cap)

404 (4) 11-1 DIFFIDENT 17 (C,F,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) A Fabre (Fr) 9-0 M J Kinane 89
(b c Nureyev - Shy Princess) (Maroon, white sleeves, white cap)

405 (10) 221122- GREEN PERFUME 204 (F,G) (Lord Sondes) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 88
(b c Naevus - Pretty Is) (Black, white triple diamond, halved sleeves, white cap, black star)

406 (5) 1-3 NWAAMIS 16 (C,S) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0 R Hills 79

407 (9) 11-1 PAINTER'S ROW 16 (CD,F,S) (Lord Weinstock) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 . . . J Reid 83
(b c Royal Academy - Road To The Top) (Pale blue, yellow and white check cap)

408 (11) 1111-1 PENNEKAMP 21 (C,F,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) A Fabre (Fr) 9-0 T Jarnet 90
(b c Bering - Coral Dance) (Maroon, white sleeves, maroon cap, white star)

409 (8) 1421- PIPE MAJOR 190 (CD,F,G) (Lord Scarsdale) P Haslam 9-0 J Weaver 75
(b c Tina - Anisfield Lady) (White, black sash, red sleeves, yellow cap)

410 (2) 04450-0 SILCA BLANKA 17 (C,G,S) (Aldridge Racing Ltd) M Channon 9-0 . . . R Hughes 73
(b c Law Society - Reality) (Orange, brown seams, brown sleeves, orange seams, orange cap, brown spots)

411 (3) 2260-1 ZEB 21 (G) (Barouche Stud Ltd) B McMahon 9-0 T Ives 68
(b c Cyrano De Bergerac - Bap's Miracle) (Dark blue, yellow braces and armlets, quartered cap)

1994: MISTER BAILEYS 9-0 J Weaver (16-1) M Johnston 23 ran

BETTING: Corals: 8-11 Celtic Swing, 100-30 Pennekamp, 11-2 Diffident, 16-1 Bahri, Painter's Row, 25-1 Nwaamis, 33-1 Chilly Billy, 40-1 Green Perfume, 66-1 Pipe Major, 100-1 Zeb, 200-1 Silca Blanka.

Ladbrokes: 4-5 Celtic Swing, 3-1 Pennekamp, 5-1 Diffident, 12-1 Bahri, 16-1 Painter's Row, 28-1 Green Perfume, 33-1 Chilly Billy, Nwaamis, 40-1 Pipe Major, 100-1 Zeb, 200-1 Silca Blanka.

William Hill: 4-6 Celtic Swing, 3-1 Pennekamp, 5-1 Diffident, 14-1 Bahri, 16-1 Painter's Row, 33-1 others.

FORM GUIDE TO THE 11 CONTENDERS

BAHRI

Apr 22, Newbury, good: see **Celtic Swing.**

Oct 27, 1994, Nottingham, good: (8-10) beat Royal Rebuke (8-5) 6l (6f, cond, £3,822, 10 ran).

Sep 28, 1994, Salisbury, good: (9-0) 3½l 2nd to Bunting (8-9) (1m, mdn, £4,347, 18 ran).

CELTIC SWING

Apr 22, Newbury, good: (9-0) beat Bahri (9-0) 1¼l (7f, gp III, £21,840, 9 ran).

Oct 22, 1994, Doncaster, good to soft: (9-0) beat Annus Mirabilis (9-0) 12l (1m, gp I, £90,758, 8 ran).

Oct 8, 1994, Ascot, good to firm: (8-11) beat Singspiel (8-11) 8l (7f, cond, £10,116, 6 ran).

Jul 16, 1994, Ayr, good: (9-0) beat Eight Sharp (9-0) 4l with Chilly Billy (9-0) 1¼l 4th (7f, mdn auct, £2,888, 9 ran).

CHILLY BILLY

Apr 20, Newmarket, good to firm: see **Painter's Row.**

Aug 17, 1994, York, good to firm: (9-0) beat Fallow (9-3) 2l with Zeb (9-0) 5¾l 6th (6f, gp II, £61,537, 11 ran).

Jul 16, 1994, Ayr, good: see **Celtic Swing.**

DIFFIDENT

Apr 19, Newmarket, good to firm: (9-5) beat Harayir (9-7) 1¼l with Silca Blanka (9-4) 7l 10th (7f, list hcp, £16,425, 12 ran).

Nov 23 1994, Evry, very soft: (8-11) beat Skip Lady (8-8) 5l (6f, list, £13,730, 10 ran).

Jun 22 1994, Evry, good: (9-2) beat Kitmaan (9-2) 2½l (6f, £9,153, 6 ran).

GREEN PERFUME

Oct 14, 1994, Newmarket, good to firm: see **Pennekamp.**

Sep 29, 1994, Newmarket, good to firm: (9-0) 3½l 2nd to Fard (9-0) (6f, gp I, £76,865, 10 ran).

Sep 2, 1994, Baden-Baden good (9-2) beaten 1¾l by Disidera (8-12), awarded race (6f, gp II, £38,911, 9 ran).

NWAAMIS

Apr 20, Newmarket, good to firm: see **Painter's Row.**

Oct 29, Newmarket 1994, soft (8-5) beat Night Hero (8-8) 4l (6f, cond, £7,227, 10 ran)

PAINTER'S ROW

Apr 20, Newmarket, good to firm, (8-12) beat Montjoy (8-9) neck with Nwaamis (8-9) head 3rd and Chilly Billy (9-0) 5l 4th (1m, gp III, £21,574, 5 ran).

Oct 20, 1994, Newbury, good to soft: (8-12) beat Bishop Of Cashel (8-12) 2½l (7f 64yd, gp III, £23,034, 10 ran).

Sept 29, 1994, Newmarket, good to firm: (9-0) beat Verzen (9-0) neck (7f, mdn, £5,609, 15 ran).

PENNEKAMP

Apr 15, Haydock, good, (9-0) beat Khamseh (8-9) 2½l (7f, mdn, £3,837, 10 ran)

Oct 13, 1994, Redcar, good: see **Silca Blanka.**

Aug 17, 1994, York, good to firm: see **Chilly Billy.**

Oct 14, 1994, Newmarket, good to firm: (9-0) quickened well to beat Green Perfume (9-0) 1l (7f, gp I, £96,585, 7 ran).

Sep 11, 1994, Longchamp, very soft: (8-11) beat Monjoy (8-11) ¾l (7f, gp I, £45,767, 8 ran)

PIPE MAJOR

Oct 28, 1994, Newmarket, good: (8-13) beat Chief Burundi (8-11) 1¼l (1m, cond, £4,589, 7 ran).

Sep 9, 1994, Doncaster, good (8-11) 6l 2nd to Sri Pekan (9-0) (7f, gp II, £36,994, 7 ran).

Jun 14, 1994, Ascot, good to firm: (8-13) 5l 4th to Sri Pekan (8-13) with Silca Blanka (8-13) 6¾l 9th (6f, gp III, £26,270, 16 ran).

SILKA BLANKA

Apr 19, Newmarket, good to firm: see **Diffident.**

Oct 13, 1994, Redcar, good: (8-13) 4½l 8th to Maid For Walking (7-13) with Zeb (8-1) 5¾l 11th (6f, cond, £89,619, 26 ran).

Sep 24, 1994, Ascot, good to soft: (8-10) 6¾l 5th to Etlish (8-10) (1m, gp I, £66,177, 8 ran).

Jun 14, 1994, Ascot, good to firm: see **Pipe Major.**

ZEB

Apr 15, Haydock, good, (9-0) beat Khamseh (8-9) 2½l (7f, mdn, £3,837, 10 ran)

Oct 13, 1994, Redcar, good: see **Silca Blanka.**

Aug 17, 1994, York, good to firm: see **Chilly Billy.**

Selection: DIFFIDENT

Cecil has good vibes for Eltish

FROM ROBIN GRAY
AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

A RELAXED Henry Cecil sat down in Wagners pharmacy, traditional breakfasting venue for Churchill Downs horsemen, and declared, "You know, I'm beginning to get very positive feelings about Eltish — he's changed for the better even in the last 24 hours - and I think he's going to run a big race".

Eltish, an 8-1 chance with Ladbrokes in the 19-strong field for the £442,000 Kentucky Derby this evening, had just made acquaintance with his dual Derby winning jockey, Eddie Delahoussay.

Led by Cecil's wife, Natalie, on a pony, Eltish, who is drawn seven in the 19-runner field, went a steady half mile under Delahoussay and the colt was calmer than he had been on Thursday morning.

Three-handed Wayne Lukas is less than happy with the 15 stall for the 5-2 favourite Timber Country, the horse that beat Eltish here in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile last November.

Lukas trained Winning Colors in 1988, one of only three fillies to win the Derby, and he saddles Serena's Song here in preference to the Kentucky Oaks.

Peter Chapple-Hyam is not present to saddle Citadeed, whose chance is not helped by his draw on the wide outside.

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PLUMPTON	107	207	307
HEXHAM	108	208	308
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NEWMARKET

THUNDERER

1.55 Tamure	3.40 Diffident
2.30 Burooj	4.15 Bunty Boo
3.00 Alpine	4.45 Sir Joey
	5.20 **BARON FERDINAND** (nap)

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.55 **TAMURE** (nap). 2.30 Burooj. 4.15 Owington.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-9 . . B West (4) 66

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J H jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

1.55 MAYER PARRY CONDITIONS STAKES

(3-Y-O: £5,326: 1m 4f) (4 runners)

101 (2) 55120-0 GREAT CRUSADER 14 (G) (R Cyzer) C Crear 8-13 J Weaver 92
102 (3) 1 SEBASTIAN 18 (CD,F) (Lord Howard de Walden) H Cecil 8-13 W Ryan 93
103 (4) 1 TAMURE 15 (F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-13 L Dettori 99
104 (1) 60-6 KORAMBI 21 (B Voak) C Britain 8-11 B Doyle 82

BETTING: 5-4 Sebastian, 6-4 Tamure, 6-1 Great Crusader, 10-1 Korambi.
1994: POLTARF 8-11 M J Kinane (10-1) H Cecil 7 ran

2.30 TORCH MOTOR POLICIES AT LLOYDS RATED HANDICAP (£9,977: 1m 2f) (10 runners) — C4

201 (8) 13435-0 OLD HICKORY 19 (B,D,F) (S Al Nabeel) L Cumani 4-9-7 L Dettori 91
202 (7) 124- TAUFAN'S MELODY 264 (F) (Ali Al Seraj) Lady Herries 4-9-4 T Ives 92
203 (1) 350412- SHERMAN 196 (B,CD,F,G) (Mrs H T Jones) H Thomson Jones 4-8-13 . . . R Hills 96
204 (2) 20/1142- BUROOJ 205 (CD,G,S) (H Al Maktoum) D Morley 5-8-12 W Carson 93
205 (4) 23040-0 GEISWAY 14 (D,F,G) (P Green) N Walker 5-8-11 R Cochrane 85
206 (9) 000000 MASTER BEVELED 8 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 5-8-8 . . . S Sanders (3) 85
207 (6) 44300-0 EMBANKMENT 14 (F,S) (Lady Tennant) R Hannon 5-8-7 J Reid 96
208 (3) 1130-06 SUE'S ARTISTE 19 (D,G,S) (A Morland) B Hills 4-8-7 M Hills 97
209 (10) 12563-0 STATAJACK 21 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M Slade) D Elsworth 7-8-7 T Quinn 91
210 (5) 0/4411-1 SPECIAL DAWN 19 (D,F,S) (Windflower Holdings Inc) J Dunlop 5-8-7 Pat Eddery 96

Long handicap: Sue's Artiste 8-5, Statajack 8-4, Special Dawn 8-3

BETTING: 7-2 Special Dawn, 5-1 Sue's Artiste, 6-1 Sherman, Master Beveled, 7-1 Burooj, 8-1 Taufan's Melody, Embankment, 10-1 Old Hickory, 12-1 others.
1994: WAINWRIGHT 5-8-13 L Dettori (3-1) J Gosden 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

OLD HICKORY 15l 8th of 10 to Captain Horatius in listed race at Kempton (1m 2f, good to firm). TAUFAN'S MELODY about 19l 4th of 5 to Zilzal Zamaan in conditions race at Windsor (1m 2f, good to firm). SHERMAN ¾l 2nd of 10 to Second Chance in handicap at Newbury (1m 1f, soft) with EMBANKMENT (3lb better off) 7¼l 7th. BUROOJ 3¼l 2nd of 11 to Acting Brave in handicap here (1m 4f, good) with STATAJACK (2lb worse off) head 3rd. MASTER BEVELED 3l 7th of 20 to Star Manager in handicap at Newbury (1m, good) on penultimate start, with EMBANKMENT (2lb better off) 4½l 13th and GEISWAY (5lb better off) 8½l 17th. STATAJACK 16l 15th of 17 to Wishing in handicap at Kempton (1m 4f, good to firm) with SPECIAL DAWN beat Blushing Flame neck at 22-runner handicap at Kempton (1m 2f, good to firm) with SUE'S ARTISTE (6lb better off) about 2½l 6th.
Selection: MASTER BEVELED (nap)

3.00 SPRING MAIDEN STAKES — C4

(2-Y-O: £4,890: 5f) (6 runners)

301 (3) ALPINE (Blandford Thoroughbreds) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn —
302 (6) DOUBLE DIAMOND (The 2nd Middleham Partnership) M Johnston 9-0 . . . D Holland —
303 (1) INDIAN BLUFF (Uk Line Services (Distribution) Ltd) C Williams 9-0 . . . R Cochrane —
304 (4) LUCKY LIONEL (Lucayan Stud) R Hannon 9-0 N Darley —
305 (2) 6 OBERONS BOY 16 (Edward P Winfield) B Meehan 9-0 Pat Eddery 85
306 (5) 0 TROPICAL DANCE 21 (G Ward) Mrs J Cecil 8-9 J Reid

BETTING: 9-4 Alpine, 3-1 Tropical Dance, 7-2 Lucky Lionel, 4-1 Double Diamond, 8-1 Indian Bluff, Oberons Boy.
1994: SRI PEKAN 9-0 T Quinn (2-1 fav) P Cole 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALPINE (Foaled Feb 26. Cost 18,000gns), half-brother to several winners, notably In The Groove Champion three-year-old filly and Group 1 winner at 1m to 1m 4f, dam won two races in minor company over 1m 4f at three. DOUBLE DIAMOND (Mar 26. 9,500 Irgns), half-brother to two juvenile winners in the States, dam herself won one race in the States. INDIAN BLUFF (Apr 11. 26,000Irgns); half-brother to two winners, dam half-sister to 1,000 Guineas winner Mrs McArdy, unraced. LUCKY LIONEL (Jan 1), third foal; dam unraced. OBERONS BOY 15½l 6th of 7 to Lucayan Prince in maiden over course and distance (good to firm). TROPICAL DANCE 3l 7th of 20 to Amareto Bay in maiden at Kempton (5f, good to firm).
Selection: TROPICAL DANCE

3.40 MADAGANS 2,000 GUINEAS STAKES — C4

(Group I: 3-Y-O colts and fillies: £117,912: 1m) (11 runners)

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE ABOVE

4.15 DUBAI RACING CLUB PALACE HOUSE STAKES — C4

(Group III: £23,807. 5f) (14 runners)

501 (4) 5111S3- OWINGTON 245 (C,F,G) (Baron G von Ullmann) G Wragg 4-9-6 M Hills 96
502 (14) 621208- PICCOLO 205 (D,F,S) (J White and Partners) M Channon 4-9-6 R Hughes 83
503 (9) 0504-11 EL YASAF 15 (D,F,G,S) (Old School House Racing Ltd) G Harris 7-8-12 M Wigham 95
504 (10) 33212-2 MISTERTOPOGIGO 15 (D,F,G) (Mrs S Alcock) W Cunningham 5-8-12 . . . K Darley 95
505 (3) 25215-2 BLUE SIREN 28 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Smith) I Balding 4-8-9 L Dettori 95
506 (12) 02065-0 BUNTY BOO 14 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Mapell) R Hannon 6-8-9 M J Kinane 86
507 (11) 44111-0 EVENINGPERFORMANCE 29 (CD,F,S) H Candy 4-8-9 W Newnes 85
508 (8) 22111-0 WINDMACHINE 18 (D,G,S) (Mrs M Dixon) R Hannt 4-8-9 Pat Eddery 94
509 (9) 114153- RAAH ALGHARB 210 (D,F,G) (A Al Maktoum) M Stoute 3-8-8 . . . W R Swinburn 88
510 (13) 15020-1 MIND GAMES 21 (D,F,G) (R Hughes) J Berry 3-8-5 J Carroll 95
511 (1) 01631-3 MILLSTREAM 21 (D,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Johnston 3-8-2 T Holland 93
512 (2) 1136-4 TAJANNUB 18 (C,F) (H Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 3-8-2 W Carson 87
513 (7) 24215-2 WAWAN 21 (D,F) (K Abdulla) R Charlton 3-8-2 D Harrison 85
514 (6) 11210-0 LOYALIZE 15 (CD,F,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 3-7-13 G Carter 91

BETTING: 4-1 Mind Games, 5-1 Misterioppogigo, 6-1 Blue Siren, Owington, 8-1 Millstream, Wawan, 10-1 others.
1994: LOCHSONG 6-9-2 L Dettori (7-2) I Balding 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

OWINGTON best effort last term beat Dolphin Street head in 9-runner group I July Cup here (6f, good) with PICCOLO 4l 6th. EL YASAF beat MISTERTOPOGIGO head in conditions race at Thirsk (5f, good to firm), MIND GAMES beat WAWAN (14lb worse off) 2½l in listed race at Haydock (5f, good) with MILLSTREAM (2lb worse off) neck 3rd. MILLSTREAM beat Overbrook 4l in group III Cornwallis Stakes at Ascot (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start, with RAAH ALGHARB (2lb better off) head 3rd. TAJANNUB 4l 4th to Lake Coniston in listed race here (5f, good to firm) with WINDMACHINE (3lb better off) 12l 9th. LOYALIZE 9½l last of 8 to Aqaarid in group III Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury (7f 64yd, good to firm).
Selection: MIND GAMES

4.45 LADBROKES HANDICAP (£24,075: 6f) (21 runners) — C4

601 (19) 060000- CELESTIAL KEY 231 (D,F,G) (M Broadrick) M Johnston 5-9-12 . . . D Holland 91
602 (9) 035231- ASTRAC 210 (D,G,S) (C Tricomb) R Akehurst 4-9-8 S Sanders (3) 94
603 (14) 00925-0 SELHURSTPARK FLYER 21 (E,F,S) (C Deuters) J Berry 4-9-7 J Carroll 95
604 (17) 0001-03 MISTER JOLSON 15 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Mursell) R Hodges 5-9-5 R Cochrane 94
605 (17) 04600-0 SASEEDO 17 (G) (S Fustok) W O'Gorman 5-9-3 Emma O'Gorman 94
606 (3) 023150- MASTER OF PASSION 182 (D,F,G,S) (M Kwiet) J Eustace 5-9-3 . . . M J Kinane 90
607 (10) 0033-60 SIR JOEY 8 (D,F,S) (Mrs A Sims) P Murphy 6-9-2 S Drowne (5) 97
608 (12) 13325-0 BE WARNED 17 (D,F,G) (Midcourts) N Callaghan 4-9-1 Pat Eddery 92
609 (18) 20405-0 SERIOUS OPTION 37 (B,D,F,S) (P Portman) P Cole 4-8-13 T Quinn 88
610 (6) 00403- ELFLAND 273 (M Brake) Lady Herries 4-8-10 N Darley 85
611 (20) 070-125 SADDLEHOME 14 (D,F,S,S) (A Shaw) T Barron 6-8-9 L Dettori 97
612 (16) 312101 ZIGGY'S DANCER 8 (D,G) (J Barry) E Alston 4-8-4 K Fallon 98
613 (7) 31/264-1 TEETOTALLER 10 (D,G,S) (Highflyers) G Balding 4-8-3 J Williams 90
614 (2) 00/303-5 JOBIE 8 (D,G) (J Redmond) B Hills 5-8-3 M Hills 94
615 (13) 641520 INVOCATION 19 (D,F,G) (R Iserman) A Moore 8-8-0 A Whelan (5) 94
616 (1) 5000-00 SAMSOLOM 10 (CD,F,G) (C Hammond) P Howling 7-7-13 R Price 98
617 (4) 064015 CHINOUR 21 (C,D,F,G) (F McKevitt) E Alston 7-7-12 P Robinson 97
618 (5) 00000-1 GONE SAVAGE 19 (D,F,G,S) (On The Floor Prop.) W Musson 7-7-12 . W Carson
619 (21) 201240 ORTHORHOMBUS 15 (B,D,F,G) (A MacGillivray) D Cosgrove 6-7-11 . . C Rutter 94
620 (6) 6114-0 MAKE TIME 10 (D,G,S) (Ayer Green Racing) J Pearce 3-7-8 G Bardwell 98
621 (15) 52202-4 MOLLIEBB 10 (V,C,D,G) (Mrs C Cosgrave) Pat Mitchell 5-7-8 N Kennedy 92

BETTING: 9-1 Jobe, 10-1 Astrac, Mister Jolson, 11-1 Saddlehome, 12-1 Be Warned, Gone Savage, Ziggy's Dancer, 14-1 Chinour, Mouqeeb, 16-1 Make Time, Saseedo, Sir Joey, Teetotaller, 20-1 others.
1994: DOUBLE BLUE 5-9-9 J Weaver (7-2) M Johnston 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

ASTRAC beat BE WARNED (5lb better off) 2½l in 21-runner handicap at York (6f, good to soft) with MASTER OF PASSION (7lb better off) ¾l 5th. MISTER JOLSON 2l 3rd of 14 to Royale Figurine in handicap at Newbury (5f, good to firm) with SIR JOEY (3lb better off) 1½l 6th. ELFLAND 4l 3rd of 11 to Alarnees in maiden over course and distance (6f, good). SADDLEHOME 4½l 6th of 15 to Tenor in handicap at Thirsk (5f, good). ZIGGY'S DANCER beat Rich Glow 1¼l in 18-runner handicap at Carlisle (6f, good). JOBIE 2l 5th of 12 to Brave Edge in handicap at Sandown (5f, good) with SIR JOEY (11lb better off) 3½l 10th. CHINOUR 2¾l 5th of 13 to Domulla in handicap at Haydock (6f, good) with SELHURSTPARKFLYER (3lb better off) 13l 12th. GONE SAVAGE beat La Pelade Fusion head in 17-runner handicap at Kempton (6f, good to firm) with INVOCATION (4lb better off) 16l 13th.
Selection: JOBIE

5.20 CHIPPENHAM PARK CONDITIONS STAKES

(£5,277: 1m 2f) (4 runners)

1 (1) 4341-61 FLORID 11 (D,G,S) (Lord Howard de Walden) H Cecil 4-9-5 W Ryan
2 (3) 111/034- BRIER CREEK 282 (C,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 6-9-4 . . . L Dettori 98
3 (2) 022436- BARON FERDINAND 239 (D,F,G) (Lady Rothschild) R Charlton 5-9-0 Pat Eddery 98
4 (4) 24- MERCADIER 248 (Sheikh Mohammed) C Britain 4-8-10 M J Kinane 71

BETTING: 5-4 Florid, 2-1 Baron Ferdinand, 7-2 Brier Creek, 8-1 Mercadier.
1994 NO CORRESPONDING RACE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
A Fabre (Fr)	9	25	36.0	R Hughes	3	12	25.0
R Charlton	17	76	22.4	Pat Eddery	92	476	19.4
D Loder	11	56	19.6	M J Kinane	13	68	19.1
H Cecil	48	266	18.0	W R Swinburn	57	351	16.2
R Hodges	3	17	17.6	J Weaver	15	102	14.7
P Chapple-Hyam	18	108	16.7	L Dettori	63	480	13.1

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Doncaster (first race, 2.20), Haydock Park (2.00), Kempton Park (C4, 2.10), Newcastle (2.25), Warwick (2.15), Exeter (2.00), Fontwell Park, (2.00), Ludlow (2.30), Southwell (2.30), Towcester (2.20)

TUESDAY: Chester (C4, 2.10), Doncaster (6.00), Newton Abbot (1.55), Wincanton (5.45).

WEDNESDAY: Ayr (1.55), Chester (C4, 2.10), Uttoxeter (6.10), Wetherby (6.05)

THURSDAY: Brighton (2.20), Chester (C4, 2.10), Hamilton Park (6.30), Sedgefield (6.15), Southwell (AW, 2.00).

FRIDAY: Beverley (2.30), Carlisle (2.40), Lingfield Park (2.20), Market Rasen (6.00), Stratford (6.10).

SATURDAY: Bath (2.10), Beverley (2.20), Lingfield Park (BBC, 1.30), Newcastle (5.20), Warwick, (5.40), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00), Worcester (1.45).

Flat meetings in bold

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

2.15 Nashville Star	3.50 Barna Boy
2.45 Loch Scavaig	4.25 Memorable
3.15 Blast Freeze	4.55 Norse Raider

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.45 **LOCH SCAVAIG.**

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.15 CROWTHER HOMES SUPPORTS THE WALTON NEURO-SCIENCE FUND HANDICAP HURDLE — BBC1

(4-Y-O. £10,455. 2m) (10 runners)

1 316511 CADOUGOLD 12 (D,F,G,S) (D Jonsson) M Pipe 12-0 R Dunwoody 90
2 442033 ZATOON 19 (B,D,G) (Cheltenham Racing Ltd) D Nicholson 10-6 W Marston 92
3 340P10 NASHVILLE STAR 9 (V,D,F,G) (P Madrian) R Mathew 10-6 M A Fitzgerald 97
4 041311 PETITJEAN 35 (D,S) (A Williams) D Barchell 10-5 D J Bartlett 97
5 0321 SERIOUS DANGER 24 (F) (Executive Racing) Mrs M Knight 10-4 J Osborne 92
6 561054 MARLINO 31 (B) (B & T Racing Club) N Twiston-Davies 10-4 C Llewellyn 99
7 002 STASH THE CASH 8 (C) (Stash T Deer) P Cole 10-0 Peter Hobbs 97
8 046 PILLOW TALK 21 (G) (Express Ltd) J Burke 10-0 D Bridgwater 89
9 00P62- MARROWFAT LADY 21 (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 10-0 P Holley 89
10 062 CLASSIC PAL 19 (P Tory) N Mitchell 10-0 D Skyrme 89

Long handicap: Stash The Cash 9-8, Pillow Talk 9-6, Marrowfat Lady 9-4, Classic Pal 9-1

BETTING: 7-2 Cadougold, 4-1 Petitjean, 9-2 Serious Danger, 5-1 Marlino, 6-1 Nashville Star, 7-1 Zatoon, 10-1 Stash The Cash, 16-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

CADOUGOLD completed double beat Speaker's House 5l in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Earlier beat CLASSIC PAL (24lb better off) 2½l in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, firm). ZATOON 12l 3rd of 9 to Glamour Game in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good). Earlier 10l 3rd of 11 to Glenmena in juvenile hurdle at Worcester (2m, good) with PILLOW TALK (5lb worse off) 4l 4th, MARLINO (2lb better off) 1¼l 5th and MARROWFAT LADY (5lb worse off) 15l 6th. NASHVILLE STAR beat Plunder Boy 8l in 10-runner juvenile handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). PETITJEAN completed double beat Nobbily 1½l in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to soft). SERIOUS DANGER beat Flawed Logic 1½l in 12-runner juvenile hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, firm). STASH THE CASH 4l 3rd of 9 to Pamona in juvenile hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: NASHVILLE STAR

2.45 CROWTHER HOMES LONG DISTANCE HURDLE — BBC1

(£10,406. 2m 7f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 P23341 LUCKY BLUE 9 (G,S) (Mrs S Palmer) N Thomson 8-11-0 M A Fitzgerald 72
2 016324 MAJOR BELL 14 (F,G,S) (A Whitlane) A Whillans 7-11-0 M Moloney 89
3 5-21643 SOLO GENT 14 (F) (A King) A Jones 5-11-0 S McNeill 80
4 150025 VASILIEV 12F (B,C,F,S) (R Houlston) S Gollings 7-11-0 R Dunwoody 97
5 000F55 GOSPEL 19 (F,S) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12 C Llewellyn 89
6 444541 LOCH SCAVAIG 16 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs G Turnbull) D Moffatt 6-10-9 D J Moffatt 95

BETTING: 6-4 Loch Scavaig, 11-4 Major Bell, 3-1 Gospel, 5-1 Lucky Blue, 20-1 Vasiliev, 66-1 Solo Gent.

FORM FOCUS

LUCKY BLUE beat Just Rosie 3½l in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f, good). Earlier 16l 4th of 5 to Keep Me In Mind in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, firm) with GOSPEL (15lb better off) 1¼l fell. MAJOR BELL 15l 4th of 7 to Master of Troy in handicap hurdle at Ayr (3m 4f, good to firm). Earlier 11l 2nd of 17 to What A Question in handicap hurdle at Aintree (3m 110yd, good) with LOCH SCAVAIG (8lb better off) 6l 4th and GOSPEL (11lb better off) 9l 5th. SOLO GENT 30½l 3rd of 11 to Balcarce Boy in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good). VASILIEV 21l 5th of 10 to Kindle's Delight in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm).
LOCH SCAVAIG beat Suckboard Bounce 2l in

Jobie ready for return to winner's enclosure

HAYDOCK PARK
BBC1



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.15: Top weight Cadougold looks likely to start favourite here after comfortably making all on his last two starts at Chepstow. He is sure to put up a bold showing, but the lightly-raced **Stash The Cash** may provide better value, even though 6lb out of the handicap. He pulled too hard on his first two outings over hurdles, but settled better when second at Perth last week and has plenty of improvement still to come.

2.45: **Loch Scavaig** has not always appeared entirely genuine, but should have too much ability for these. She put up her best performance of the season when beating Buckboard Bounce at Ayr last month. With stamina doubts over Lucky Blue and Vasiliev, Major Bell looks best for the forecast.



Niven: good chance

3.15: Home Counties has improved throughout the season, winning the Scottish Champion Hurdle on his latest start. He will be suited by the strong pace here and should go close in spite of carrying top weight. However, **Sweet Mignonette**, ridden by Peter Niven, is a much better proposition. A useful performer over 1¼ miles on the Flat, she has taken well to hurdling, winning a hot novices' event at Aintree last month, and looks leniently treated on her handicap bow.

NEWMARKET
C4

2.30: This race is regularly won by a four-year-old making his seasonal debut and **Taufan's Melody** makes considerable appeal at what should be decent odds. A winner when making his debut at Goodwood last June, he then finished an excellent second to Highland Dress at Chester, form which entitles him to be off a higher mark on his handicap debut. Old Hickory looks to have plenty of weight and Special Dawn looks a bigger danger.

3.00: There is precious little to go on here, but the Julie Cecil-trained **Tropical Dance** did well to finish seventh, beaten less than three lengths, from a bad draw at Kempton three weeks ago. Her experience could pay dividends. Paul Cole, who often sends a useful juvenile to this meeting, won this race with Sri Pekan last year and tries again with Alpine.

3.40: See above.

4.15: Owington should have the speed for his first attempt at five furlongs but the group one penalty and his low draw could prove too big a burden. The early pace in the race looks sure to be towards the middle of the track, with the speedy Mind Games and Bunty Boo drawn on the wide outside. That could play into the hands of **Mistertopogigo**, who is best when travelling just off the pace before delivering his challenge inside the final 100 yards. Kevin Darley rides the Prix de l'Abbaye runner-up to perfection. Blue Siren is a danger but Ian Balding's *string is yet to hit top form.*

4.45: I am particularly keen on the chances of **Jobie**, who has moved to the in-form Barry Hills yard and been gelded since last year. On his seasonal debut at Sandown eight days ago, he did well from a poor draw to finish two lengths fifth without being given a hard ride. Jobie won off today's handicap mark over six furlongs at Yarmouth in 1993 and must have a big chance in this field. Mister Jolson has been prepared for this race and is well treated, along with Gone Savage.

RICHARD EVANS

BRSK

THUNDERER

2.20 Pinzon. 2.50 Hoh Majestic. 3.20 Sir Tasker. 3.55 Queens Consul. 4.30 Superoo. 5.00 Nine Barrow Down.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 MILLGATE MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £4,206: 7f) (8 runners)

1 0-3 DOSSES DAN 21 B Hills 9-0 J D Smith (5) 7
2 3-2 DR CALIGARI 10 J Berry 9-0 S D Williams 6
3 3 PINZON 14 P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 B Thomson 4
4 6 RUS 16 G Wragg 9-0 Paul Eddery 1
5 STATISTICIAN John Berry 9-0 M Fenton 8
6 0S CUPROMICKEL 10 J Watts 8-9 N Carlisle 2
7 0 HIGHFIELD FIZZ 19 C Fairhurst 8-9 J Fanning 3
8 5 SHAZNAM 25 Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-9 J Fortune 5

9-4 Pinzon, 3-1 Dr Caligari, 7-2 Dosses Dan, 8-1 Rug, Shazanni, 10-1 others.

2.50 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MARKET PLACE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,590: 5f) (9)

1 HOH MAJESTIC M Bell 9-0 M Fenton 3
2 00 LUCKY SEA 17 M W Easterby 9-0 L Charnock 4
3 MARKETEER MAGIC J Berry 9-0 S D Williams 8
4 TIME TO FLY B Mactaggart 9-0 Dean McKeown 1
5 ECCENTRIC DANCER M Brittain 9-0 A Culhane 7
6 FANCY CLANCY Miss L Siddall 8-9 A McGlone 2
7 LAC DESSERT D Leslie 8-9 M Tebbutt 6
8 POPPY MY LOVE B McMath 8-9 A Mackay 5
9 5 SUPERGAL 24 M W Easterby 8-9 M Birch 9

5-4 Lac Dessert, 3-1 Markeeter Magic, 7-2 Hoh Majestic, 8-1 Poppy My Love, Fancy Clancy, 14-1 Supergal, 16-1 Time To Fly, 20-1 others.

3.20 BUSINESS FURNITURE CENTRE HANDICAP
(£4,341: 5f) (20)

1 -000 JUST BOB 7 (C,D,F,S,S) S Kettlewell 5-10-0 J Stack (5) 8
2 000- HIGH DOMAIN 150 (D,S,S) T Barron 4-9-12 Jimmy Bennson (7) 14
3 546- CALL TO THE BAR 191 (D,F,S) M Dods 8-9-10 Dale Gibson 19
4 000- KNAYTON LASS 182 (D,F) M W Easterby 4-9-6 M Birch 9
5 00-3 NED'S BONANZA 14 (C,D,F,S) M Dods 8-9-5 S Whitworth 13
6 3613 SPENDER 19 (C,D,F,S) P Haslam 8-9-5 G Duffield 15
7 1200 LORD SKY 19 (V,D,F,S,S) A Bailey 4-9-4 V Halliday (5) 5
8 23-5 CROFT IMPERIAL 14 (D,F,S,S) M Johnston 8-9-4 T Williams 4
9 44-0 HIGH RANKING 10 (D,F) M H Easterby 3-9-2 S Maloney 1
10 3210 TENOR B (D,S) D Nicholls 4-9-2 Alex Greaves 7
11 5119 SIR TASKER 19 (C,D,F,S) J L Harris 7-8-8 Paul Eddery 17
12 00-0 THE RED 35 (V,D,F,S) R Whitaker 5-8-7 A Culhane 20
13 40-6 MY ABBEY 19 (D,F) E Alston 5-8-5 A Mackay 18
14 24-0 FEATHERSTONE LANE 8 (V,D,F) Miss L Siddall 4-8-5 D R McCabe (3) 12
15 5050 NEWACRES 16 (D,F,S) D Nicholls 4-8-3 N Varley (5) 11
16 60-0 MILBANK CHALLENGER 8 (D,F,S) W Storey 5-8-0 J Fanning 16
17 6600 DOUBLE GLOW 32 (D,F,S) N Bycroft 3-7-11 J Quinn 10
18 540- LADY SHERIFF 142 (B,D,F) M W Easterby 4-7-8 L Charnock 2
19 -602 MISS SHAM 16 (D,F,S,S) D Nicholls 5-7-7 S Lanigan (7) 3
20 04-0 DOMINELLE 17 (F) M H Easterby 3-7-7 N Carlisle 6

7-1 Ned's Bonanza, 8-1 Croft Imperial, Spender, Tenor, 10-1 Ninecrees, My Abbey, Sir Tasker, 12-1 Lord Sky, Miss Sham, 14-1 others.

3.55 THIRSK HUNT CUP
(Handicap: £12,598: 1m) (13)

1 -204 CASTEL ROSSELO 17 (D,F,S,S) B McMath 5-9-12 A Mackay 9
2 0-00 ROBSERA 12 (D,F) G Lewis 4-9-8 Paul Eddery 7
3 4004 CELESTIAL CHOIR 14 (D,F,S,S) J Eyre 5-9-6 G Duffield 6
4 3-01 SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 29 (B,F,S) M H Easterby 4-9-4 M Birch 10
5 6220 QUEENS CONSUL 5 (D,F,S) B Rothwell 5-9-4 J Stack (5) 1
6 02-0 SECKAR VALE 16 (S) J Hanson 3-9-3 A Culhane 12
7 6531 ALLINSON'S MATE 8 (D,F,S) T Barron 7-9-0 J Fortune 4
8 30-3 SYCAMORE LODGE 15 P Calver 4-8-9 G Hind 2
9 -632 SPANISH VERDICT 8 (CD,F,S) Denys Smith 8-8-8 C Teague (5) 13
10 0-00 PRIDE OF PENDLE 14 (D,F,S,S) D Nicholls 6-8-8 Alex Greaves 8
11 0022 PROFIT RELEASE 8 (B,D,F,S) M Johnston 4-8-0 T Williams 3
12 00-0 LANCASHIRE LIFE 10 E Alston 4-7-8 J Quinn 5
13 00-0 GANT BLEU 5 (C,D,F,S,S) R Whitaker 8-7-7 N Varley (5) 11

9-2 Sandmoor Chambray, 5-1 Castel Rosselo, 6-1 Sycamore Lodge, 7-1 Spanish Verdict, 8-1 Celestial Choir, 10-1 Seckar Vale, Profit Release, 12-1 others.

4.30 VICTORY IN EUROPE HANDICAP
(£5,744: 7f) (8)

1 -232 TATIKA 7 G Wragg 5-9-10 Paul Eddery 5
2 1550 PENILOUS PURSUIT 14 (D,F,S) W Muir 4-9-8 B Thomson 2
3 203- PHARAZMA 288 M Camacho 4-8-8 L Charnock 4
4 10-2 BARREL OF HOPE 16 (D,S) J Eyre 3-9-4 J Fortune 8
5 220- SUPEROO 203 (D,F,S) Mrs P Sly 9-9-3 M Birch 7
6 2300 MARY'S CASE 5 (B) M Johnston 5-8-8 T Williams 1
7 1006 PINE RIDGE LAD 31 (D,F,S) J Eyre 5-8-5 J Fanning 3
8 00-5 WILLSHE GAN 14 (D,F,S) Denys Smith 5-7-13 J Quinn 6

5-1 Tatika, 4-1 Barrel Of Hope, 5-1 Penilous Pilgrim, Pine Ridge Lad, 6-1 Willshe Gan, 7-1 Mary's Case, 8-1 others.

5.00 SPRING MAIDEN STAKES
(£4,239: 1m 4f) (11)

1 000- BLACK ICE BOY 187 R Bastiman 4-9-10 H Bastiman (5) 5
2 5 DAYO STAR 21 J Jefferson 4-9-10 J Fortune 11
3 OUR MAIN MAN 5J R Whitaker 5-9-10 A Culhane 2
4 0 SHARAZI 26 D Cosgrove 4-9-10 D Gibbs (7) 1
5 0/ SHREWD ALIBI 614 I Balding 4-9-10 S D'Gorman 4
6 WASSL'S GUEST 70 R Mansell 4-9-5 F Norton 10
7 35 DAWN MISSION 8 M H Easterby 3-8-5 M Birch 7
8 0-0 KRATON GARDEN 15 W Jarvis 3-8-5 Ms Tebbutt 6
9 3-0 NINE BARROW DOWN 18 H Cecil 3-8-5 A McGlone 8
10 0-0 SNOW VALLEY 18 L Cumani 3-8-5 C Hodgson (3) 9
11 5- EMBRACING 224 M Stoute 3-8-0 J Quinn 3

5-2 Nine Barrow Down, 3-1 Dato Star, 7-2 Embracing, 8-1 Sharazi Alibi, 10-1 Kraton Garden, 12-1 Sharazi, Dawn Mission, Snow Valley, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 9 winners from 21 runners, 42.9%; M Camacho, 5 from 20, 25.0%; G Wragg, 4 from 16, 25.0%; W Jarvis, 3 from 12, 25.0%; B Hills, 3 from 13, 23.1%; S Kettlewell, 3 from 15, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: G Duffield, 29 winners from 101 rides, 28.7%; Paul Eddery, 8 from 41, 19.5%; J Fortune, 12 from 100, 12.0%; N Connorton, 8 from 75, 10.7%; S Hind, 5 from 57, 10.5%.

Blinkered first time

TODAY: NEWMARKET: 2.30 Old Hickory. 4.45 Serious Option. HAYDOCK PARK: 2.15 Zatoon. 4.55 Lankridge. HEREFORD: 3.55 Agra. HEXHAM: 6.30 Bogans Disco. 8.00 Jumping Cactus. Mistroy. 8.30 Normans Profit. PLUMPTON: 5.40 Lord Fawsley. 6.10 Sussex Maestro, Mediator. 7.40 Good Spark. TOMORROW: NEWMARKET: 2.30 Microlite

HEREFORD

THUNDERER

2.20 Poinciana. 2.50 Vicar Of Bray. 3.25 Doctor-J. 3.55 Straight Talk. 4.30 Hamper. 5.00 Russian Empire. 5.30 Convent Garden.

Brian Beel: 4.30 Andrelot.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.20 LEOMINSTER HUSBANDS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,070: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

1 F/0- CRU EXCEPTIONNEL 493 P Hobbs 7-11-2 C Maude
2 25P- FLAXON WORRIOR 335 R Jackes 11-11-2 Miss S Higgins (7)
3 0U KATIE'S KID 19 M Ahern 5-11-2 J Lodder
4 3-50 MIGHTY MAURICE 12 M Scudamore 6-11-2 G Upton
5 3052 POINCIANA 6 Miss C Johnsey 6-11-2 A P McCoy
6 0 STRETCHIT 17 D McCain 5-11-2 D McCain

4-7 Poinciana, 5-1 Mighty Maurice, 7-1 Stretchit, 8-1 Cru Exceptionnel, 12-1 Flaxon Warrior, 16-1 Katie's Kid.

2.50 RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION HANDICAP CHASE (£2,880: 3m 1f 110yd) (5)

1 4-21 WELKOMOWN CHARACTER 19 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 13-11-10 Sophie Mitchell (7)
2 13-1 HEIGHT OF FUN 19 (B,C,D,F,G,S) C Popham 11-11-8 M Bosley
3 4522 PANT LLIN B (B,F) F Jordan 9-10-4 J Lodder
4 3155 VICAR OF BRAY 19 (V,F,G) G Balding 8-10-4 A P McCoy
5 P-P4 MINT-MASTER 8 (F) B Shaw 10-10-0 P Maddock (7)

8-4 Height Of Fun, 11-4 Pant Llin, 3-1 Welkomown Character, 5-1 Vicar Of Bray, 12-1 Mint-Master

3.25 BONUSPRINT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,795: 2m 1f) (10)

1 4-44 SALMAN 19 (D,F,S) Mrs V Ward 9-12-0 R Davis
2 4550 SOUTH SANDS 78F (D,F,S) A Forte 9-10-13 A P McCoy
3 1230 DOCTOR-J 14 (D,F) J White 5-10-12 P McLoughlin (5)
4 P020 LITTLE MINER 8 I Jones 4-10-9 Miss E J Jones (7)
5 4330 STRIKE-A-POSE 128 (S) B Llewellyn 5-10-5 Mr J L Llewellyn (5)
6 500- ITS ALL OVER NOW 443 (D,F) Mrs A King 11-10-1 G Upton
7 FP03 CHUKATEN 8 (S) J Mackie 6-10-0 J Lodder
8 4609 SECRET CASTLE 15 (F) K Wiscox 7-10-0 B Robertson (7)
9 60U5 MA BELLA LUNA 15 J Moore 5-10-0 W McFarland
10 5P86 SHAUHOLME 131 T Price 5-10-0 Mr R Johnson (7)

3-1 Salman, 4-1 Doctor-J, 9-2 Chukaten, 5-1 Strike-A-Pose, 7-1 South Sands, Little Miner, 12-1 others.

3.55 SUN VALLEY TURKEY STEAKS NOVICES CHASE (£3,455: 3m 1f 110yd) (3)

1 1-F1 AGRA 82 (B,S) M Pipe 7-11-11 J Lower
2 4451 STRAIGHT TALK 8 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 8-11-11 Miss P Carling
3 -303 RUBINS BOY 23 (F) N Walker 9-11-4 G Upton

4-6 Straight Talk, 6-4 Agra, 8-1 Rubins Boy

4.30 JAIL-BREAK STAKES
(Hunters chase: amateurs: £1,725: 2m 3f) (10)

1 PP3P EBONY STAR 10P (D,S,S) Mrs F Lockwood 12-12-7 E Walker (7)
2 P13P THE BLUE BOY 14 (B,F,S,S) P Bowen 7-12-7 D Duggan (7)
3 44U1 ANDRELOT 19 (CD,D,F,S) S Dench 8-12-4 J Jukes (7)
4 R-0R ETERNAL CREDIT 14P (B,F,S) Miss S Waugh 13-12-4 J Barnes (7)
5 P46P FERGAL'S DELIGHT 18P (F,S) Mrs C Chadney 12-12-4 J M Pritchard (7)
6 4611 SPY'S DELIGHT 14 (F,S) E Woolley 9-12-4 E Woolley (7)
7 -203 WELSH LEGION 14 (F,G,S) G Lewis 10-12-4 R Johnson (7)
8 5P41 HAMPER 21P (B,F,G,S) P Butler 12-12-0 N R Mitchell (7)
9 P13F MOVING FORCE 8 (B,S) P Williams 8-12-0 J Tudor (7)
10 /PU- MARTIYA 343P (S) R Williams 7-11-9 A Wintle (7)

6-4 Spy's Delight, 3-1 Hamper, 5-1 Welsh Legion, 6-1 Andrelot, 8-1 Fergal's Delight, 10-1 The Blue Boy, 20-1 others.

5.00 McDONALDS CHARITY HURDLE
(Novices handicap: £2,070: 2m 3f 110yd) (9)

1 3522 REACH FOR GLORY 8 W G M Turner 6-11-10 Rodney (7)
2 3200 CAPTAIN BERT 7 B De Haan 6-11-9 G Upton
3 3014 RUSSIAN EMPIRE 6 (C,D,F) N Walker 5-11-8 C Maude
4 0411 FABULOUS PRINCESS 15 (F) C Popham 4-11-4 [illegible] (5)
5 0464 FLASHMAN 10 B Llewellyn 5-11-5 [illegible] (3)
6 5P93 GRAY ROSETTE 15 D Gandolfo 6-11-3 [illegible] (3)
7 F515 POLDEN PRIDE 7 (F) G Balding 7-11-3 McCoy
8 -055 TELMAR SYSTEMS 151 J White 8-10-0 P McLoughlin (5)
9 0000 SHE KNEW THE RULES 37 D Carey 5-10-0 R Davis

9-4 Fabulous Princess, 7-2 Reach For Glory, 9-2 Polden Pride, 6-1 Gray Rosette, 7-1 Flashman, 8-1 Russian Empire, Captain Bert, 25-1 others.

5.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MARES ONLY NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,380: 2m 1f) (16)

1 0 BETTER WIND 49 C Price 5-11-6 Mr L Squire (7)
2 COMVENT GARDEN N Henderson 5-11-6 M Lane (7)
3 DERRING ANN Mrs S Johnson 5-11-6 D Walsh (5)
4 FAIR VENUS B De Haan 5-11-6 M Berry (7)
5 FLORION R Alner 5-11-6 P Carey (7)
6 GERTROOD BELLE 27P D McCain 5-11-6 D McCain
7 LET YOU KNOW T George 5-11-6 Mr M Daly (7)
8 ROCKLANDS COTTAGE J White 5-11-6 P McLoughlin (5)
9 RUSGRAT B Preece 5-11-6 G Robertson (7)
10 SOCIETY ARCH J Pearce 5-11-6 A P McCoy
11 03 THE BRATPACK 21 J Kirby 5-11-6 D Leahy (5)
12 HOLLY COURT Dr P Pritchard 4-11-6 Dr P Pritchard
13 6 HYMOSS 19 M Pipe 4-11-0 Miss A Bryan
14 0 RESTATE 10 C Horgan 4-11-0 Mr L Jefford (7)
15 0 SEE MORE ANGELS 77 A James 4-11-0 Miss S Higgins (7)
16 SILVER SHRED A Barrow 4-11-0 D Barrows (7)

9-4 Convent Garden, 3-1 Hymoss, 8-1 Rocklands Cottage, 14-1 The Bratpack, Derring Ann, Restate, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 14 winners from 29 runners, 48.3%; R Alner, 7 from 22, 31.8%, M Pipe, 32 from 114, 28.1%; P Hobbs, 10 from 50, 20.0%; P Nicholls, 4 from 23, 17.4%.

JOCKEYS: A P McCoy, 5 winners from 20 rides, 25.0%; J Lower, 5 from 22, 22.7%; R Davis, 9 from 50, 18.0%, D Leahy, 4 from 32, 12.5%. Only qualifiers.

☐ Cash Asmussen rides Mark Johnston's classic hope, Double Eclipse, in the group two Prix Hocquart over 1½ miles at Longchamp tomorrow. John Dunlop sends Subya (Paul Eddery) to Dusseldorf for the German 1,000 Guineas, while Luca Cumani's Steady Ready Go and Ben Hanbury's Moments Of Fortune tackle the listed Premio Merano in Milan.

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER

5.40 So Discreet. 6.10 Major's Law. 6.40 Brave Defender. 7.10 Sir Norman Holt. 7.40 Days Of Thunder. 8.10 Josifina.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

5.40 ANDY CRAGG STAG NIGHT NOVICES CHASE
(£2,924: 3m 1f 110yd) (5 runners)

1 4242 CREWS CASTLE 14 (C,F,S) J Jenkins 8-11-9 C O'Dwyer
2 2654 SO DISCREET 21 (B,F,S) J White 7-11-9 D Morris
3 P-UP APOLLO VENTURE 9 P Bowe 7-11-3 Mr Matthew J Jones
4 -434 LORD FAWSLEY 19 (V,F,S) R Phillips 10-11-3 J Railton
5 1-5P RIVER RED 131 (F) J White 9-11-3 D Bohan (7)

6-4 So Discreet, 9-4 Crews Castle, 3-1 Lord Fawsley, 5-1 River Red, 33-1 Apollo Venture

6.10 JODIE MARRIOTT CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,085: 2m 4f) (7)

1 2145 MAJOR'S LAW 15 (C,G,S) J White 6-11-6 D Bohan (7)
2 /00 MEDIATOR 14 (V) A Moore 6-11-2 I Lawrence
3 -P0F MISS PANDY 19 G Enright 7-11-2 J R Kavanagh
4 3660 SUSSEX MAESTRO 23 (B) F Gray 5-11-0 M Crosse
5 /30- PIGALLE WONDER 11F R O'Sullivan 7-10-12 D O'Sullivan
6 0250 SIR EDWARD HENRY 33 (B) Miss A Embiricos 5-10-12 N Mann
7 054P PONTEVECCHIO BELLA 19 (C,S) Mrs L Jewell 9-10-7 J Railton

4-5 Major's Law, 7-2 Pigalle Wonder, 5-1 Sir Edward Henry, 10-1 Pontevecchio Bella, 16-1 Mediator, 20-1 Soccer Maestro, Miss Pandy

6.40 PRESTON PARK HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,976: 3m 1f 110yd) (5)

1 /65 RIVERTIMO 14 (S) P Mitchell 11-11-10 J Railton
2 261P FIGHTING DAYS 14 (V,C,F,S) A Moore 9-11-10 I Lawrence
3 0432 BRAVE DEFENDER 21 (F,S) J White 11-11-4 D Morris
4 F0UP GENERAL BRANDY 19 (S,S) J Gifford 9-11-1 P Hide
5 3424 PAPER STAR 7 (C,F) M Meggendorfer 8-10-13 J R Kavanagh

11-8 Brave Defender, 7-4 Fighting Days, 5-1 Riverimo, 6-1 Paper Star, 20-1 General Brandy

7.10 A R DENNIS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,226: 2m 4f) (9)

1 3621 GLENCARRIG GALE 21 (CD,F) D Gandolfo 7-11-10 J Railton
2 5061 ESPRIT DE FEMME 19 (CD,F) D Browne 9-11-9 A Tory
3 1140 SIR NORMAN HOLT 3F (CD,F) R O'Sullivan 6-11-8 D O'Sullivan
4 4500 GONE BY 108 (F,S) J Jenkins 7-10-12 C O'Dwyer
5 6351 SCUD MISSILE 23 (D,F) G Johnson Houghton 4-10-8 A Thornton
6 200- JOHNSTONS BUCK 357 B Curley 6-10-6 E Murphy
7 PP76 OH SO HANDY 16 (CD,F) R Curtis 7-10-1 D Morris
8 2000 ROGER'S PAL 9 (C,S,S) A Moore 8-10-0 I Lawrence
9 0304 ARAMON 18 M Haynes 5-10-0 DOUBTFUL

3-1 Esprit De Femme, 4-1 Glencarrig Gale, 9-2 Scud Missile, 5-1 Sir Norman Holt, 8-1 Johnstons Buck, 10-1 Oh So Handy, 12-1 others.

7.40 SOUTHERN FM NOVICES CHASE
(£2,794: 2m) (6)

1 2253 CORPUS 19 R Hodges 5-11-2 A Tory
2 F063 DAYS OF THUNDER 8 (S) J White 7-11-2 D Morris
3 P54P GOOD SPARK 9 (V,F,G,S) S Woodman 9-11-2 A Thornton
4 0453 JOKER JACK 9 (F,S) R Dean 10-11-2 A Procter (3)
5 3539 NORTHERN TRIAL 21 (F,S) K Burke 7-11-2 J R Kavanagh
6 60P2 COMBRO STAR 14 Miss C Caroe 5-10-9 I Lawrence

2-1 Days Of Thunder, 5-2 Corpus, 4-1 Combro Star, 5-1 Northern Trial, 8-1 Good Spark, 12-1 Joker Jack.

8.10 HOVE FOUR YRS OLD FILLIES NOVICES HURDLE (£2,108: 2m 1f) (5)

1 6041 JOSIFINA 8 (D,F) M McCormack 11-7 I Lawrence
2 2302 BAYARMYA 19 N Henderson 11-0 J R Kavanagh
3 HARLEQUIN WALK 11F R O'Sullivan 11-0 D O'Sullivan
4 P046 LIFE DANCING 14 N Gaselee 11-0 J Railton
5 MALINGERER 74F G Wilson 11-0 A Thornton

5-4 Josifina, 7-4 Bayarmya, 5-1 Life Dancing, 8-1 Malingerer, 16-1 Harlequin Walk.

WARWICK

THUNDERER

5.50 The Padre. 6.20 Dubit. 6.50 Leotard. 7.20 Lone Risk. 7.50 Invasion. 8.20 First Crack.

Brian Beel: 6.20 Dubit.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

5.50 LEAMINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,783: 2m) (6 runners)

1 -146 MULCIBER 123F (D,F) E Harwood 7-11-10 M Perrett
2 -512 KHALIDI 14 (D,G,S) D Gandolfo 6-11-2 Sophie Mitchell (7)
3 5001 THE PADRE 15 (B,D,F) Miss H Knight 6-10-13 J Osborne
4 0F03 STEVE FORD 19 C Nash 6-10-7 D Bridgwater
5 1P2U ASTERIX 8F (F) J Bradley 7-10-2 Guy Lewis (5)
6 0-P6 BAYPHIA 21 (F,S) J Joseph 7-10-0 D Skyrme

7-4 The Padre, 5-2 Khalidi, 6-1 Asterix, Mulciber, 8-1 Steve Ford, Bayphia.

6.20 WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,155: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1 64P1 RYTON RUN 3 (D,F,G) Mrs S Odell 10-12-5 J Trice-Ralph (5)
2 2U32 DUBIT 12 (S) R Winstade 10-12-0 Miss S Vickery (7)
3 /P6 JOVEN TOP 10P Mrs T Elwell 7-12-0 Mrs J Pettit (7)
4 4TPP JUST SILVER 15 B Rendall 10-12-0 A Millner (7)
5 D1P2 KITES HARDWICKE 34P (S) R Mathews 8-12-0 J Rees (7)
6 P015 SAN REMO 18P (F) J Swindells 8-12-0 Miss K Swindells (7)
7 P1P4 SEAL KING 7 (G,S) L Bowles 10-12-0 R Johnson (7)
8 RUR6 DORIS BLAKE 19P J Swindells 12-11-9 Miss S Swindells (7)

Evens Dubit, 5-4 Ryton Run, 7-1 Seal King, 16-1 Kias Hardwicke, 20-1 others.

6.50 ALDERMINSTER NOVICES CHASE
(£3,711: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 3611 LEOTARD 14 (F,G,S) O Sherwood 8-11-10 J Osborne
2 1131 WISE APPROACH 3 (F,G) K Bailey 8-11-10 M Williamson
3 /5-U FAST RECOVERY 7 C Weld 10-11-3 J McLaughlin
4 0BP6 MOON MONKEY 8 Mrs A King 7-11-3 R Bellamy

4-9 Leotard, 6-4 Wise Approach, 25-1 Moon Monkey, 33-1 Fast Recovery.

7.20 BARFORD SELLING HURDLE
(£2,080: 2m) (12)

1 62P6 HOLIDAY ISLAND 12F R Alexiou 6-11-6 S Ryan (7)
2 0U80 JACK A HOY 28 R Brotherton 5-11-6 L Harvey
3 3356 TAANHUS 9 J Joseph 5-11-6 D Skyrme
4 0P0 TROUBLE SHOOT 70 Mrs M McCourt 5-11-6 G McCourt
5 126 LONE RISK 10 (S) M Pipe 4-11-5 R Dunwoody
6 4122 SHARP SPRING 212 (F) J White 4-11-5 N Williamson
7 DUGORT STRAND 19F J L Harris 4-11-0 T Dascombe (7)
8 PF GLOWING ACCOUNT 53 J Mullins 4-11-0 S Curran (5)
9 65 NIGHT BOAT 25 W Clay 4-11-0 Diane Clay
10 0P STRADIVARIUS 19 N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0 C Llewellyn
11 P0 BUSTLE'EM 45 D McCain 4-10-9 D McCain
12 00 SERAPHIC 31 B Cambidge 4-10-9 Gary Lyons

2-1 Sharp Spring, 5-2 Lone Risk, 9-2 Holiday Island, 6-1 Taanhus, 14-1 others.

7.50 GRAND UNION HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,380: 3m 2f) (10)

1 5522 WINDY WAYS 44 (D,F,S) N Henderson 10-12-6 M A Fitzgerald
2 -P31 INVASION 19 (B,F,S,S) O Brennan 11-11-8 M Brennan
3 P143 EASTSHAW 18 (F,S,S) T Forster 13-11-7 A P McCoy
4 32PP TAMMY'S FRIEND 14 (B,D,F,S) C Mann 8-11-6 R Dunwoody
5 5302 CHANNELS GATE 14 (D,S,S) N Twiston-Davies 11-11-3 C Llewellyn
6 1341 REAL PROGRESS 18 (D,S,S) P Hobbs 7-11-0 G Tormey (5)
7 55P5 THE TARTAN SPARTAN 19 (C,F,S) M Wilkinson 11-10-10 R Supple
8 -PP5 LOCAL CUSTOMER 7 (D,F,S) P Beasley 10-10-3 W Marston
9 -PPU K C'S DANCER 140 (D,F,S) R Dickin 10-10-2 N Williamson
10 355- SAILOR'S DELIGHT 32P (F,S) K Wingrove 11-10-0 J Ryan

7-2 Invasion, 4-1 Real Progress, 9-2 Eastshaw, 5-1 Windy Ways, 6-1 others.

8.20 WASPERTON HILL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,930: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 2055 POWLEYVALE 24 (D,S,S) O Sherwood 8-11-10 J Osborne
2 0111 FIRST CRACK 8 (C,F,S,S) F Jordan 10-10-12 J Lodder
3 -P4F MR JOB 19 (F,S) J Joseph 6-10-4 C Llewellyn
4 3421 FAR OUT 15 (V,D,F,S) O Brennan 9-10-0 M Brennan

2-5 First Crack, 9-4 Powleyvale, 14-1 Far Out, 25-1 Milroy

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

6.00 Kir. 6.30 Go Silly. 7.00 Marco Magnifico. 7.30 Golden Isle. 8.00 Fret. 8.30 Wilman.

Brian Beel: 6.30 Go Silly.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

6.00 NORTH TYNE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,177: 3m) (7 runners)

1 2062 MONARU 53 (B,D,F,S,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-12 G Lee
2 1531 FIVE FLAGS 19 (F,S,S) Mrs S Smith 7-11-9 R Wilkinson (3)
3 P048 RUSTINO 16 (D,S,S) W Cunningham 9-10-13 W Fry
4 6512 KIR 35 (B,C,D,F,S) W Thompson 7-10-12 B Harding
5 3383 GERMAN LEGEND 35 D Lamb 5-10-0 G Cahill (3)
6 5PP0 WHO SIR ? (S) H Alexander 9-10-0 D Thomas (3)
7 P-4F HIGHLAND FRIEND 138 (V) F Watson 7-10-0 F Leahy

6-4 Five Flags, 7-2 Monaru, Rustino, 4-1 Kir, 14-1 German Legend, 20-1 others.

6.30 DIPTON MILL MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,136: 3m 1f) (8)

1 2/5 BOB'S REQUEST 33 J Charlton 7-12-7 D Parker (3)
2 FR61 BOGARTS DISCO 14P (B,F) W McKeown 7-12-7 A Parker (7)
3 14F4 FINAL HOPE 21P (B,S) R Tate 7-12-7 Mrs F Needham (7)
4 6134 GO SILLY 7 (S) Ms L Pinter 9-12-7 Miss P Robson (7)
5 5P42 ITS A DEAL 19P (G) S Pittendrigh 9-12-7 S Pittendrigh (7)
6 -600 MILL KNOCK 7 (S) J Thompson 13-12-7 N Hargreave (7)
7 05R4 MORE JOY 14P Mrs L Marshall 7-12-7 A Manners (7)
8 P-P0 WIRE LASS 7 K Robson 11-12-2 P Jenkins (7)

5-4 Go Silly, 7-2 Bob's Request, Final Hope, 7-1 Bogarts Disco, 10-1 others.

7.00 ROOSTER COMPUTERS MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,522: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 0P-P BIT OF LIGHT 47 D Lamb 8-11-4 Mr A Manners (7)
2 0P03 BUYERS DREAM 19 J Hellens 5-11-4 Richard Guest
3 0P8 CHARLVIC 12 W Cunningham 5-11-4 W Fry (5)
4 0 TIM IN CHARGE 25 J Hellens 6-11-4 A Lamach (3)
5 5P-5 JUMBO STAR 10 J Dixon 5-11-4 B Storey
6 2-2 MARCO MAGNIFICO 10 T Dyer 5-11-4 Peter Hobbs
7 0000 MISTI HUNTER 28 Miss M Milligan 6-11-4 G Cahill (7)
8 2/ SNOW BOARD 322F Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-4 Mr C Wilson
9 P0 WHITRIGG LAD 140 R Cockburn 6-11-4 A Cockburn
10 P0 EL

Fox-Pitt and Chaka in position for elusive equestrian double


Clarke: unlucky

By Jenny MacArthur

WILLIAM FOX-PITT and Chaka have the elusive Burghley-Badminton double in their sights after taking over the lead for the Mitsubishi Motors Trophy at the end of the sweltering dressage phase at the Badminton Horse Trials yesterday.

Fox-Pitt, 26, of Britain, holds a 2.4-point lead over the Olympic champion, Matt Ryan, of Australia, on the 18-year-old Kibah Tic Toc. Bruce Davidson, of the United States, a dual world champion seeking his first Badminton victory, is in third place on Eagle Lion.

Mary Thomson, the overnight leader, dropped back to fourth place on King Kong because of an onslaught of splendid tests yesterday. Her best horse, King William, who was expected to finish among the leaders, is placed 21st after becoming unsettled by the sound of camera shutters.

Mark Todd, the favourite and defending champion, is well in contention, holding fifth place on Bertie Blunt and sixth on Just An Ace. Only ten points separate the ten leading riders as the competition enters the speed and endurance phase today.

The unluckiest rider was Polly Clarke, 21, a team gold medal-winner at the Young Riders European Championships last year, who was eliminated in the dressage when her horse, Poggio, stepped outside the boards of the arena halfway through their test.

Although Fox-Pitt led from the start at Burghley last September, he seemed overcome to be in a similar position at Badminton. "I was surprised by how well he was going — he's never gone that well before." Owned by Sir Michael Turner and Hackett Ltd, Chaka's early schooling came from Judy Herbert. Fox-Pitt's trainer, Sheila Cotter, has recently brought out the softness that characterised Chaka's test.

Kybah Tic Toc, who, like Chaka, is competing in his final Badminton, also looked softer and rounder than on previous occasions. Wayne Roycroft, the Australia team trainer, attributed the improvement to Ryan's skill. "I've never seen him ride so well," he said.

Ryan is cautiously optimistic about his chances today. Since winning his gold medal in Barcelona in 1992, he has had a series of mishaps. After mistakes at Burghley in 1993 and again at Badminton last year, he missed the World Championships when he broke his pelvis in a fall at Althorp. However, this spring the old horse has had three faultless performances and Ryan says he feels "as good as ever".

Fox-Pitt, who describes the course as "fair and clever", is quietly confident. He knows that Chaka is capable of a clear round — he achieved one two years ago — but two mistakes last year have eliminated complacency. "He's got a memory like an elephant," Fox-Pitt said. "I just hope he remembers the clear round and not last year."

With Davidson, Thomson and Todd snapping at their heels, the two leaders cannot afford mistakes if they are to retain their positions today. Davidson was fourth last year on Eagle Lion. Todd has been regularly placed on Just An Ace, and Thomson, although giving King Kong his first Badminton outing, was runner-up at Burghley with him last year.

The fine weather has caused the ground to become firm, which has caused concern among the riders and could influence the outcome of the event. "It's bound to cause a certain amount of jarring," Todd said. "The final horse inspection on Sunday should be interesting."

POSITIONS (after dressage): 1, Chaka (W Fox-Pitt, GB) 40.4; 2, Kibah Tic Toc (M Ryan, Aus) 42.6; 3, Eagle Lion (B Davidson, US) 46.5; 4, King Kong (M Thomson, GB) 47.0; 5, Bertie Blunt (M Todd, NZ) 48.0; 6, Just an Ace (M Todd, NZ) 49.0

Ulsterman relishes Italian Open

Rafferty plays lead role as he bids to end lean spell

From Mel Webb in Milan

RONAN RAFFERTY yesterday continued to show signs of emerging from the worst spell of a career that for ten unbroken years was paved with gold. His 68 in the second round of the Italian Open at Le Rovedine in the Milanese suburbs took him back to the top of the leaderboard, a position he has not enjoyed for the better part of two frustrating years.

Rafferty is a golfer of immense natural talent, but has rarely shown it since his last victory, which came in the Austrian Open of 1993. His halfway total of 135, nine under par, gives him only a one-shot lead, but any sort of advantage should put him in good heart as the tournament goes into the weekend.

So, how was he feeling as the third round approached? Perversely, he would not say. "I don't think I can answer that question," he said, with a ghost of a smile playing on his lips. Further efforts were made to elicit an answer to what seemed, on the face of it, to be an innocent enough question. The Ulsterman, though, was in the sort of enigmatic mood that too often makes him a difficult man to be around.

He was, however, more prepared to talk about his golf and what had led him to the indignity of 64th place in the Order of Merit last season, the lowest finishing position of a career that in 1989 took him to three victories — including his first European triumph in this championship — and the No 1 place in the European money list.

"It was my driving that did it," he said. "I don't think it went off, in fact it was the other way round. The fact is I've never considered myself a good driver and it was a bonus to drive the ball well for three or four years.

"When you find yourself hitting 11 fairways instead of seven, it obviously puts your confidence on an upward spiral. It's less a matter of technique than confidence."

Rafferty is, at present, languishing in 143rd place in the Order of Merit, a position in which a player of his inate ability should never find himself. Victory come Sunday would not bring a final solution to his agony — but it would certainly help.

Rafferty, who leads by a shot from Costantino Rocca, Mark Litton, Paul Broadhurst and José Rivero had a good start in which he birdied three of the first seven holes. He hit a five-iron to 15 feet of the second, then tackled the sixth and seventh in exactly the same way — three-wood, wedge and putts from eight and 15 feet.

He dropped a shot on the 9th after hooking his drive into water, but retrieved the shot on the par-five 15th when he topped off a three-wood, a four-iron and a sand wedge with a 20-foot putt. He finished with a comfortable birdie on the last, two putts from 25 feet following a drive and a six-iron to the heart of the green.

Broadhurst, meanwhile, was also producing his best golf for a long time. The personable Midlander was thought of as one of the outstanding prospects in Europe when he made a successful Ryder Cup debut at Kiawah Island in 1991, but injury and the loss of his swing have hit him hard since.

He had two eagles, holing a 130-yard wedge shot on the fourth and sinking a 30-foot putt on the last, and added two birdies and a solitary bogey in his 67.

"At last I think I know where I'm going again," he said, "but I'm taking it gently — it doesn't pay to look too far ahead in this game."

In his case, though, it is surely better to look forward than back. The future for Broadhurst cannot be unhappier than the recent past.

Clash of dates favours Lytham Trophy field

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent

WITH the daftest conflict in amateur golf still unresolved, the Lytham Trophy and the Berkshire Trophy, two of the game's best 72-hole events, coincide this weekend. Once again, the leading amateurs have had to decide whether to tilt at the demanding Lancashire links or go for the gentler test (and, perhaps, better food) of The Berkshire.

How much more satisfactory it would be for players, spectators and officials if the clubs could bury their sand wedges and run their tournaments on different weekends.

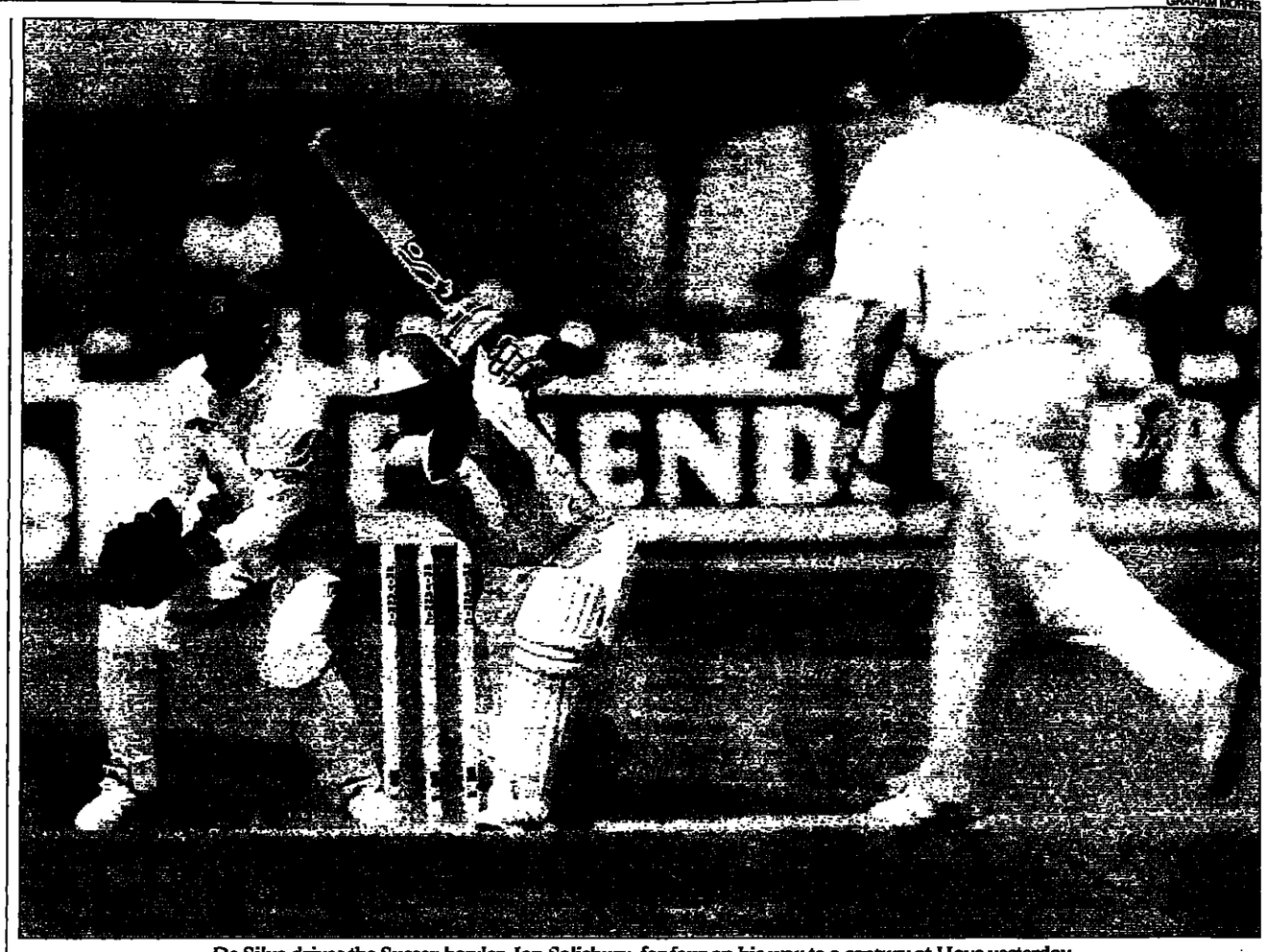
The English Golf Union should invite a team of officials from each club to a free weekend of golf at Woodhall Spa — soon to be the union's headquarters — and lock up the golf bags until an agreement over dates is reached.

The Lytham Trophy has attracted much the better field with 16 of the Walker Cup squad competing there, compared with two down south. Most of the leading Scots, many of the Irish, almost all the Welsh and some of the English are competing at Lytham. These include the Scotsmen, Gordon Sherry and Stephen Gallacher, who played in the Eisenhower Cup team last autumn.

You get some idea of their level of ability when you discover that their handicaps are plus-four and plus-three respectively.

Bradley Dredge, the holder of the Duncan Putter, David Howell, a much-fancied English amateur, and Padraig Harrington, of Ireland, are also competing. Lee James, the Amateur champion, and Gary Harris are among the favourites for the Berkshire Trophy.

This is an important year for amateur golf, and the season really gets under way in Britain and Ireland this weekend. The European team championship, held by Wales, is being staged at Royal Antwerp in July and the Walker Cup will be contested at Royal Porthcawl in September. It will be the first Walker Cup to be held in Wales, and Clive Brown, a Welshman, is non-playing captain.


GRAHAM MORRIS

De Silva drives the Sussex bowler, Ian Salisbury, for four on his way to a century at Hove yesterday

Kent warms to de Silva's endeavours

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 32 runs behind Kent

AFTER four innings with a top score of 16, Aravinda de Silva had not exactly won over the more censorious followers of Kent but all he needed, it now transpires, was the sun on his back. Yesterday, shedding sweater and vest for the first time since his arrival in England, the Sri Lankan made a disciplined but attractive century that denied Sussex a position of control.

The first half of this match has been peculiarly symmetrical. For Thursday read Friday, and for Sussex read Kent. De Silva played the Alan Wells role for his side and, against varied and notably committed bowling, he, alone, made batting look relatively simple.

Kent had lost half their wickets for 172, one fewer than Sussex on the opening day, but de Silva ensured respectability and Mark Ealham emulated Franklyn Stephenson in supervising lower-order resistance of such merit that Kent gained an improbable lead of 38.

It was another golden day and Hove can seldom have looked better. Overnight, the town council in this traditional Tory stronghold had fallen to Labour for the first time in history but if some of the ground's old faithfuls looked a shade bewildered by this, they were soon wearing contented expressions. An exotically skilled Asian was batting and a leg-spinner was bowling, so all was right with the world.

De Silva was marching to the middle within half-an-hour of the start. Stephenson, in the first of four caustic spells from the sea end, interrupted Ward's fruitful start to the season with the unexpected lift he summoned throughout the day and Walker suffered the cruel fate of being run out without scoring, answering an ambitious call from his captain, Mark Benson.

It was well past lunch before Sussex could remove Benson but he caused them no great pain. Strokeless for long spells and berating himself when regularly playing and missing, Benson had occupied three hours for 45 when Stephenson's off-stump probing finally brought reward.

Moores may have taken the catch with a degree of relief, for he had dropped Benson off Hemmings before lunch; far more expensively, he had also put down de Silva, on six, when he edged Stephenson high towards first slip.

This was the only chance de Silva was to give. Reaching his maiden fifty for the county with successive cover-drives for four off Hemmings, he then bestrode the afternoon session. The critical duel was with Stephenson, fully a foot taller than de Silva and intent on testing his reflexes, resolution and repertoire. He found them all in good order.

Giddins, who was inclined to overdo the short ball, earned some vindication when Neil Taylor flapped a mistimed hook to square-leg and Kent looked to be in deep trouble when Matthew Fleming followed quickly, offering no shot to Ian Salisbury's googly. This was scant reward for Salisbury, who bowled with aggression and confidence, restricted his loose balls to maybe one in three overs and obtained sufficient spin to harbour high hopes for the second innings.

De Silva alone played him with comfort, driving with the spin as sumptuously as he pulled and hooked the quicker bowlers. He fell, at length, to sensible bowling from Jason Lewry, who was playing junior club cricket two years ago but has the look of a capable and progressive player. In a lively left-arm over, he swings the ball and keeps it well up. De Silva and, later, Patel were out to such virtues and Jarvis, when fit, may not reclaim his place.

Of de Silva's 117, 82 came in boundaries and his batting will win many friends. No less admirable was the 88 made by the combative Ealham. It was the highest score of his career and it earned precious breathing space for Kent, who took the wicket of Hall in the first of the two overs remaining to Sussex.

SCOREBOARD

SUSSEX: First Innings 323 (A P Wells 107, C W J Athey 82).

Second Innings

C W J Athey not out	6
J W Hall lbw b Headley	0
E S H Giddins not out	0
Total 1 wkt (2 overs)	6

FALL OF WICKET: 1-1.

BOWLING: Headley 1-0-1-1, Patel 1-0-5-0.

KENT: First Innings

T R Ward c Moores b Stephenson	13
*M R Benson c Moores b Stephenson	45
M J Walker run out	0
P A deSilva lbw b Lewry	117
N R Taylor c Wells b Giddins	13
M V Fleming b Salisbury	9
M A Ealham c Moores b Salisbury	88
†S A Marsh c Athey b Stephenson	24
M M Patel c Salisbury b Lewry	10
D W Headley b Stephenson	19
T N Wren not out	8
Extras (b 1, lb 8, w 2, nb 4)	15
Total (111.3 overs)	361

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-36, 3-130, 4-157, 5-172, 6-218, 7-255, 8-292, 9-343.

BOWLING: Stephenson 31-9-86-4; Giddins 27-3-94-1; Salisbury 21.3-2-78-2; Lewry 21-3-73-2; Hemmings 11-3-23-0

Bonus points: Sussex 7 Kent 8.

Umpires: G I Burgess and R A White

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 5 San Diego 4, Philadelphia 6 Cincinnati 4; New York 5 Montreal 1 (10 inns); Houston 6 St Louis 4, Atlanta 3 Florida 3 (suspended).
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Baltimore 5 Milwaukee 2, Detroit 4 Cleveland 3, Kansas City 6 Minnesota 0; New York 5 Boston 3; Oakland 9 California 6

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Playoffs: Eastern Conference: New York 93 Cleveland 80 (New York win best-of-five series 3-1); Chicago 85 Charlotte 84 (Chicago win best-of-five series 3-1) Western Conference: LA Lakers 114 Seattle 110 (Lakers win best-of-five series 3-1)

CRICKET

BAIN HOGG TROPHY: The Oval: Essex 229 Surrey 232-1 (J D Ratcliffe 112 not out, D M Ward 56 not out) Surrey won by nine wickets
THE PARKS: Oxfordshire 218 for five (D Wise 74), Oxford University 219 for eight (C Gupte 65) Oxford University won by two wickets.
SCHOOLS MATCH: MCC 209-4 dec (K Sharp 107 not out), Wrekin 102.

CYCLING

HENIN-BEAUMONT, France: Four Days of Dunkirk race. Fourth stage (13.3km time-trial): 1, C Boardmann (GB) 16min 05sec; 2, J Nijdam (Holl) at 10sec; 3, J Museeuw (Bel) same time; 4, G Duclos-Lassalle (Fr) 13; 5, A Tali (It) 16; 6, S Knavan (Holl) same time. Overall: 1, Boardman 10 40:55; 2, E Magnien (Fr) at 8sec; 3, Museeuw at 8sec.
VILLENEUVE, Switzerland: Tour de Romandie: Second stage (178km Delsberg to Villeneuve): 1, M Capollini (It) 4hr 28min 18sec; 2, J Svorada (Slovakia); 3, C Capelle (Fr); 4, G Fidanza (It), 5, N Minali (It) all same time. Overall positions: 1, P Ugrumov (Lat) 10hr 8min 11sec; 2, B Zberg (Switz) at 4sec, 3, O Rincon (Col) 5.
ASHEVILLE, North Carolina: Tour DuPont: Eighth stage (203km from Greenville to Asheville): 1, C Sheehan (US) 5hr 33min 56sec; 2, A Tetenkok (Kaz) at 7sec, 3, L Madouas (Fr) 10; 4, A Peron (It) 19; 5, V Ekimov (Russ), 6, L Armstrong (US) same time. Overall positions: 1, Armstrong 35hr 49min 18sec; 2, Peron at 2:43, 3, Ekimov 2:53.

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal 0 Wimbledon 0.
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Third division: Bury 0 Walsall 0
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Dover 2 Woking 3, Kidderminster 1 Kettering 3.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Crawley 4 Trowbridge 2, Leek 6 Corby 1; Sudbury 1 Rushden and Diamonds 0. Southern division: Fareham 2 Bashley 1; Newport IOW 2 Braintree 2.
DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Slough 1 Enfield 4, Yeading 0 Harrow 3. Second division: Hemel Hempstead 3 Hungerford 2. Third division: Canvey Island 0 Feltham and Hounslow 2; Collier Row 4 Harefield 0.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 2 Chelsea 2; Bristol City 2 Luton 4; West Ham 0 Watford 1.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Coventry 1 Derby 2, Notts County 0 Wolverhampton 0, Stoke 0 Sunderland 0. Second division: Manchester City 5 Port Vale 2, Newcastle 6 Mansfield 0
CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Eastwood Hanley 1 Salford 1. Skelmersdale 1 Bradford Park Avenue 5.
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Paget 0 Oldbury 2, Knypersley 2 Shifnal 3
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Lowestoft 1 Halstead 4
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: West Ham 0 Cambridge Utd 3. Second division: Tottenham 2 Brentford 2.
OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: O Ignatians 3 Cardinal Manning 2. Senior first division: Kingsbunians 2 Salvatorians 5
BELGIAN CUP: Semi-final: First leg: Anderlecht 2 Ekeren 0
ENGLISH SCHOOLS FUJI FILM TROPHY: Final, first leg: South Tyneside 1 Islington and Camden 1 (at Roker Park)

GOLF

MILAN: Italian Open: Early collated second-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated) 135: R Rafferty 67, 68 136: P Broadhurst 69, 67, C Rocca (It) 68, 68; M Litton 68, 68; J Rivero (Sp) 65, 70. 137: J Sandelin (Swe) 66, 65, E Canonica (It) 68, 69. 138: S Dodd 68, 70, A Forsbrand (Swe) 71, 67, N Briggs 65, 73. 139: F Andersson (Swe) 71, 68, S Torrance 69, 70, P Baker 71, 68; A Colsaerts 68, 71; S Grappasonni (It) 71, 68, R Willison 68, 71; A Sherborne 71, 68; T Johnstone (Zim) 70, 69; P Hedblom (Swe) 73, 66
MARIETTA, Georgia: BellSouth Atlanta Classic: Early first-round (US unless stated): 65: J Gallagher, B Porter 68: T Kite 67: B Estes, J Daly, M Calcavecchia, S Keppler, D Love, 68: B Chamblee, T Tryba, W Grady (Aus), H Taylor, N Lancaster * 69: D Feherty (GB), K Triplett, E Humenik, Lohr, M Hulbert, J Wilson, S Hoch, J Lewis, J D Blake, D Duval, J Sindelar. Other scores: 70: D Frost (SA), E Romero (Arg), C Parry (Aus) 71: M McNulty (Zim), B Cole (Aus), 72: F Allem (SA), 76: J Farnevik (Swe)

HOCKEY

GENOA: Junior European Nations Cup qualifying tournament: Switzerland 1 Gibraltar 3; Scotland 2 Portugal 1; Italy 0 England 2. Final positions: 1, England 2pts; 2, Italy 8; 3, Scotland 6, 4, Gibraltar 4; 5, Portugal 2, 6, Switzerland 0

MOTOR RALLYING

CORSICAN RALLY: Final positions: 1, D Auriol (Fr, Toyota Celica) 5hr 14min 49sec; 2, F Delecour (Fr, Ford Escort Cosworth) at 15sec; 3, A Aghini (It, Mitsubishi Lancer) 57; 4, C Sainz (Sp, Subaru Impreza) 1:18; 5, C McRae (GB, Subaru Impreza) 1:43. World championship standings: 1, Sainz 30pts; 2, J Kankkunen (Fin) 38; 3, Auriol 36

REAL TENNIS

HOLYPORT: BNB Resources British Professional championship (GB unless stated): Second round: N Wood beat P Tabley (Aus) 6-5, 6-1, 6-0; M Devine bt H Latham 6-1, 6-2, 5-6, 6-2; M Gooding bt R Gunn 3-6, 6-1, 5-6, 6-4, 6-4; K Sheldon bt C Bray 4-6, 1-6, 6-3, 6-5, 6-3; J Howell bt F Wills 6-3, 6-2, 6-1

SNOOKER

MALTA MASTERS: Quarter-finals: D Roe (Eng) bt A Borg (Malta) 4-3; R Lawler (Eng) bt M Stevens (Wales) 4-2; J Higgins (Scot) bt B Jones (Eng) 4-0; T Drago (Malta) bt P Mifsud (Malta) 4-3.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Middlesbrough 45 Eastbourne 51; Sheffield 47 Swindon 49; Ipswich 63 Oxford 33

SQUASH

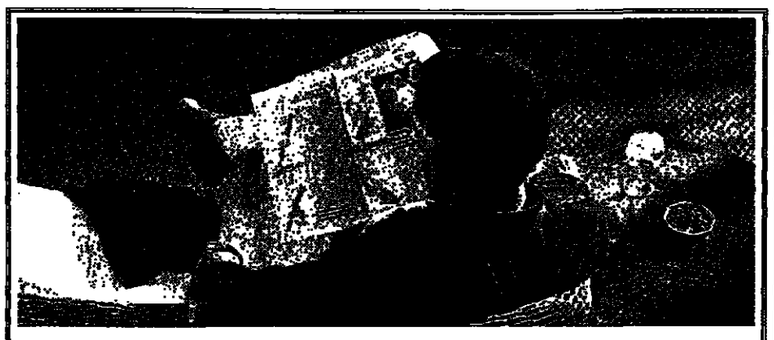
SINDLESHAM, Berkshire: Rivervale Masters Final: P Nicol (Scot) bt D Harris (Eng) 17-15, 15-12, 11-15, 15-4

TABLE TENNIS

TIANJIN, China: World championships: Men: First round: Group B: England 3 Poland 0 (England names first: C Prean bt T Kazaszewski 21-10 21-19, Chen Xinhua bt P Sidarski 21-15 21-14; A Cooke bt P Sidranek 21-15 21-15). Women: First round: Group B: Hungary 3 England 0 (Hungary names first: V Elo bt A Gordon 21-16, 22-20; G Wirth bt N Deeton 17-21, 21-10, 21-19; Wirth and Elo bt Gordon and Deeton 20-22, 21-8, 21-10).

TENNIS

ATLANTA, Georgia: Men's tournament (US unless stated): Second round: M Larsson (Swe) bt J Hassid (Switz) 1-6, 6-3, 6-3; M Wilander (Swe) bt F Meligeni (Br) 6-3, 7-6, A Agassi bt V Speciere 6-4, 7-5, C Ruud (Nor) bt C Adams 6-4, 6-1.
MUNICH: Men's tournament: Quarter-final: W Ferreira (SA) bt O Gross (Ger) 7-6, 6-3


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هكذا من الأصل

Evergreen Childs shows value of experience

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Worcestershire, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 149 runs behind Essex

ONE of cricket's charms is the way the season begins in a random way, like a mountain stream winding towards a waterfall. People peer through the thickets of university fixtures, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the opening championship matches and say to one another, "I thought I heard a murmur".

By the beginning of June, when the first Test is just around the corner, the game has become part of a collective memory. All kinds of things shape it: a favourite cover drive, the smell of cut grass, the approach to a familiar ground, an innings half-remembered but never actually seen. Harold Pinter ended a 1969 essay on his early memories with the evocative: "Talk of a schoolboy called May".

Talk of a batsman called Gooch, some may say in 30 years, though they will talk less readily of a bowler called Babington. For the players the summer is not a romantic *aide-mémoire*. It is the means to a living so you have to admire those who cope with the disappointments of professional cricket and come back each year young at heart.

Gooch has known bad days as well as good. So has John Childs, who turns 44 in August. He is the second senior player in the game, after Eddie Hemmings, who is a senatorial 46, and with each passing year becomes more important, not less, to Essex.

The strength of their pace bowling is doubtful. Much depends on Ilott's fitness. Much more depends on how Cousins takes up the challenge of regular first-team cricket, and how well Irani develops. They do have a pair of experienced spinners in Childs and Such and on dry, wearing pitches they will not be idle for long.

"Charlie" Childs is a throwback. He began his career with Gloucestershire in 1975, when Rollins, who is keeping wicket to him, was 1½ years of age. His gentle manner is an antidote to the frantic backslapping and ceaseless chatter that passes so often these days for "commitment".

In the autumn of his career he still has a full part to play. He and Such tied Worcestershire in knots yesterday, sharing seven of the eight wickets as the ball turned and, just as important, popped. Had Curtis and Rhodes not added 78 for the sixth wicket, Worcestershire would probably have fallen short of the 240 needed to avoid the follow-on.

Curtis came in at the fall of the second wicket, after spending the morning nursing a finger that required stitches, and was there at the close, 73 overs later. He has made 65 in that earnest way, batting with admirable discipline and not a little bravery. Rhodes, bolder, resorting to the sweep at every opportunity, was taken at slip from one of the "poppers".

Hussain, who held the catch, missed Curtis on 31 and 55. They were difficult chances as Such, the bowler, would privately admit. His public feelings were more graphic and his mood was not lightened when Hussain eventually held a fine "catch" that evidently came off Curtis's pad.

No sooner had Worcestershire avoided the follow-on than Hussain dived full-length to take a superb catch after anticipating Newport's intentions. Worcestershire will not enjoy batting to save this match in the fourth innings.

SCOREBOARD

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch b Haynes	86
*P J Prichard lbw b Radford	30
J J B Lewis lbw b Radford	75
N Hussain c sub b Leatherdale	33
D D J Robinson lbw b Leatherdale	29
R C Irani lbw b Illingworth	63
†R J Rollins c Leatherdale b Illingworth	3
M C Ilott b Illingworth	0
P M Such c Haynes b Illingworth	19
D M Cousins not out	15
J H Childs b Newport	7
Extras (b 7, lb 17, w 1, nb 4)	29
Total (126.5 overs)	369

Score at 120 overs: 372-9

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86, 2-186, 3-220, 4-286, 5-286, 6-307, 7-323, 8-366, 9-371

BOWLING: Newport 27.5-5-83-1; Wylie 12-1-51-0; Illingworth 47-20-80-4; Radford 20-3-82-2; Haynes 10-6-25-1; Leatherdale 10-2-43-2

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

W P C Weston c Lewis b Such	25
T M Moody b Ilott	17
G A Hick c Rollins b Such	37
*T S Curtis not out	65
G R Haynes lbw b Childs	11
D A Leatherdale b Childs	2
†S J Rhodes c Hussain b Childs	54
P J Newport c Hussain b Such	17
R K Illingworth c Rollins b Such	0
N V Radford not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 3)	12
Total (8 wkts, 90 overs)	240

A Wylie to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-72, 3-89, 4-127, 5-133, 6-211, 7-240, 8-240

BOWLING: Ilott 8-1-32-1; Cousins 7-2-34-0; Irani 11-0-36-0; Such 33-9-66-4; Childs 31-10-64-3

Bonus points: Essex 7 Worcestershire 6

Umpires: R Julian and A G T Whitehead

Leicestershire on brink of defeat despite tailend resistance of Millns

Yorkshire poised for swift success thanks to Hartley

BY IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 83 runs behind Yorkshire

THERE is, as Raymond Illingworth likes to remind us, an old, pithy saying about a strong Yorkshire side making for an England XI worthy of the name. After this match, he will be stating it even more loudly, for Leicestershire, runners-up in the county championship last year, have been completely outplayed. Made to follow on, they had lost a further five wickets by the close, four of them cheaply.

It had seemed in mid-afternoon as if this was a match that would not last for a third day, let alone a fourth. Membership has increased significantly here but Leicestershire, like several other counties, are still much in need of decent bank holiday takings. They are also in need of somebody, anybody, to bat for a long while today.

Requiring 183 to avoid following on, Leicestershire were 75 for eight after the first ball of Gough's second spell yesterday. It would hardly seem credible that a side which batted so spiritedly at Chelmsford last week could collapse in this fashion. Pleasing though it would be to report that Gough bowled as if warming to the imminent arrival of despondent West Indians, the truth was rather more prosaic.

Leicestershire prepared their pitch for Millns and Mullally, only for Yorkshire's seamers to make considerably greater use of it. In the first session it was a question of whether the conditions were more untrustworthy than the batting. Resuming on the unpropitious total of one for two, Leicestershire swiftly lost Cronje, taken at short leg off Gough. There was a further catch by Vaughan when Smith similarly failed to counter the lift Hartley achieved in his first over.

Two dismissals in particular disconcerted Leicestershire. Wells was held at gully, the ball from Hartley jumping from a length. Boon, having managed 12 in 23 overs, was leg-before to one coming onto him at shin height. When Robinson was neatly taken at first slip, again off Hartley, Leicestershire had mustered 47 for seven.

Later in the day, the pitch did become slower and the odd ball turned sharply for Stemp at the pavilion end. There was just one occasion when physical danger was apparent — and this had nothing to do with the state of the pitch. Hamilton, who somehow came to Yorkshire from Scotland via schooling in Kent — they have an enlightened policy of recruitment these days — was substituting for Grayson after lunch.

Conceivably in a state of torpor, for this was a baking hot day, he failed to take heed of the ball being returned to the bowler from the in-field and was hit above an eye. It was markedly blackened last night.

When play resumed, Leicestershire did bat with greater solidity. Indeed, so resolutely did Millns perform that he was asked by his captain to open the innings when they followed on. His unbeaten half-century, reached just before the last wicket fell, convinced Briers that this was worthwhile.

It was imaginative thinking, but nothing came of it. Trying to steer Hartley over the heads of a sizeable slip cordon, he was brilliantly taken by Byas. Briers had already gone to Gough, his front foot not to the pitch of the ball. When Cronje drove too soon, lofting a catch to cover, and Boon was bowled by Stemp's arm ball, Leicestershire's secretariat was becoming increasingly concerned.

A further wicket or two and Yorkshire would have claimed the extra half-hour. They had two spinners on in the closing overs, Vaughan bowling off spin, but were unable to make the necessary breakthrough. They are odds-on to achieve a notable victory at some point today.

SCOREBOARD

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 332 (C White 107, A P Grayson 73; A D Mullally 4 for 62)

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

T J Boon lbw b Hartley	12
*N E Briers c Byas b Hartley	0
A R K Pierson c Vaughan b Gough	0
W J Cronje c Vaughan b Gough	0
B F Smith c Vaughan b Hartley	25
V J Wells c Stemp b Hartley	0
†P E Robinson c Bevan b Hartley	3
D L Maddy c Hartley b White	24
G J Parsons c Blakey b Gough	20
D J Millns not out	50
A D Mullally lbw b Robinson	1
Extras (lb 3, w 8)	12
Total (83.4 overs)	147

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-1, 3-5, 4-43, 5-43, 6-44, 7-47, 8-75, 9-144

BOWLING: Gough 18-7-46-3, Hartley 20-12-19-5; Robinson 11.4-3-42-1, Stemp 13-5-34-0; White 1-0-2-1.

Second Innings

D J Millns c Byas b Hartley	7
*N E Briers c White b Gough	6
T J Boon b Stemp	38
W J Cronje c Bevan b Stemp	5
B F Smith c Stemp b Robinson	11
V J Wells not out	22
†P E Robinson not out	12
Extras (b 1)	1
Total (5 wkts)	102

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-24, 3-43, 4-68, 5-76.

BOWLING: Gough 8-1-29-1; Robinson 8-3-15-1; Stemp 16-8-21-2; Vaughan 6-2-7-0; Hartley 5-1-25-1; White 5-1-4-0

Bonus points: Leicestershire 4 Yorkshire 7.

Umpires: D J Constant and D R Shepherd.

LAURENCE GRIFFITHS



Gough shows his frustration after being hit for four by Millns at Grace Road yesterday

CRICKET SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Glamorgan v Northants

CARDIFF (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 77 runs ahead of Glamorgan

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

R R Montgomerie c Hemp b Dale	25
A Fordham c Metson b Kendrick	57
R J Bailey c Maynard b Kendrick	27
M B Loye c Maynard b Croft	0
*A J Lamb st Metson b Kendrick	124
K M Curran c Dale b Kendrick	23
D J Capel lbw b Watkin	0
J N Snape lbw b Croft	55
†D Ripley b Watkin	15
A Kumble c Metson b Watkin	18
J P Taylor not out	21
Extras (lb 7, w 1, nb 4)	12
Total (118.1 overs)	377

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-70, 2-91, 3-98, 4-148, 5-190, 6-195, 7-287, 8-337, 9-337

BOWLING: Watkin 23.1-5-74-3; Thomas 13-2-66-0; Dale 15-2-54-1; Croft 34-11-78-2; Kendrick 33-11-68-4

Second Innings

R R Montgomerie lbw b Watkin	0
A Fordham lbw b Watkin	11
R J Bailey not out	17
†D Ripley not out	3
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (2 wkts)	34

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-27

BOWLING: Watkin 4-1-14-2; Thomas 2-1-10-0, Kendrick 2-1-9-0

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James lbw b Taylor	1
*H Morris lbw b Taylor	17
D L Hemp c Snape b Capel	1
M P Maynard lbw b Kumble	30
P A Cottey c Montgomerie b Kumble	116
A Dale c Curran b Kumble	61
R D B Croft c Montgomerie b Kumble	9
S D Thomas c Montgomerie b Kumble	0
N M Kendrick c Curran b Bailey	18
†C P Metson not out	36
S L Watkin c and b Taylor	23
Extras (b 12, lb 13, w 1, nb 8)	34
Total (100.3 overs)	334

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-15, 3-19, 4-79, 5-240, 6-254, 7-257, 8-292, 9-298

BOWLING: Taylor 13.3-0-51-3, Capel 15-2-63-1; Curran 13-4-40-0; Kumble 32-9-65-5, Snape 8-0-45-0; Bailey 19-6-45-1.

Bonus points: Glamorgan 7 Northamptonshire 8

Lancashire v Durham

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Durham, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 74 runs behind Lancashire

DURHAM: First Innings 249 (J E Morris 68; Wasim Akram 5 for 40)

Second Innings

*M A Roseberry b Wasim	13
W Larkins not out	19
J Boiling not out	1
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 8)	14
Total (1 wkt)	47

FALL OF WICKET: 1-39

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 8-2-30-1; Chapple 7-3-12-0

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

M A Atherton lbw b Brown	29
J E R Gallian c Boiling b Brown	6
G Chapple c Scott b Brown	58
J P Crawley c Betts b Prabhakar	3
N H Fairbrother c Boiling b Wood	13
N J Speak c Daley b Betts	13
*M Watkinson c Staseby b Boiling	108
Wasim Akram c Scott b Wood	10
†W K Hegg c Roseberry b Wood	11
P J Martin c Boiling b Wood	71
G Keedy not out	15
Extras (b 12, lb 3, w 2, nb 18)	33
Total (107.4 overs)	370

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-62, 3-67, 4-81, 5-105, 6-190, 7-222, 8-246, 9-281.

BOWLING: Brown 25-6-72-3, Wood 18.4-4-54-4; Betts 20-1-103-1; Prabhakar 23-6-49-1, Boiling 18-4-61-1; Staseby 3-0-18-0

Bonus points: Lancashire 8 Durham 5

Middlesex v Hampshire

LORD'S (second day of four): Middlesex, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 362 runs ahead of Hampshire

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 189 (M R Ramprakash 71, J P Stephenson 7 for 51)

Second Innings

*M W Gatting b Bovill	33
J C Pooley c Aymes b Streak	30
M R Ramprakash not out	126
J D Carr c and b Connor	129
P N Weekes not out	6
Extras (b 2, lb 8, nb 6)	16
Total (3 wkts)	342

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-65, 2-69, 3-322.

BOWLING: Connor 25-3-93-1; Streak 19-4-62-1; Bovill 18-2-92-1; Stephenson 13-1-67-0; Udal 6-1-25-0; White 3-0-22-0; Nicholas 3-0-11-0

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

V P Terry c Gatting b Feltham	14
R S M Morris c Brown b Feltham	16
G W White c Brown b Nash	15
R A Smith c Emburey b Nash	15
*M C J Nicholas c Gatting b Nash	6
†A N Aymes not out	35
J P Stephenson c and b Emburey	7
S D Udal c Emburey b Nash	30
H H Streak c Weekes b Tufnell	10
C A Connor b Tufnell	0
J N B Bovill lbw b Tufnell	15
Extras (lb 4, nb 2)	6
Total (70.2 overs)	169

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-34, 3-55, 4-66, 5-69, 6-98, 7-129, 8-147, 9-147

BOWLING: Fraser 20-6-46-0, Nash 20-6-61-4; Emburey 11-4-17-1; Feltham 14-6-25-2; Tufnell 5.2-1-18-3

Bonus points: Middlesex 4 Hampshire 4

Notts v Derbyshire

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 38 runs behind Derbyshire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 244 (P Johnson 65, G F Archer 61, D G Cork 4 for 51, D E Malcolm 4 for 53)

Second Innings

P R Pollard not out	15
*R T Robinson not out	14
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (no wkt)	31

BOWLING: Malcolm 7-1-11-0; Cork 10-4-18-0; DeFreitas 3-3-0-0

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

*K J Barnett c Noon b Cairns	28
A S Rollins lbw b Cairns	15
D J Cullinan b Hindson	131
T J G O'Gorman c Evans b Cairns	39
J E Owen c Pollard b Afford	4
D G Cork c & b Mike	8
P A J DeFreitas lbw b Mike	0
†K M Krikken not out	1
D E Malcolm c Afford b Cairns	13
A C Cottam c Noon b Mike	13
Extras (b 5, lb 1, nb 18)	24
Total	312

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43, 2-44, 3-138, 4-165, 5-186, 6-186, 7-196, 8-270, 9-292

BOWLING: Cairns 26-6-83-4; Evans 24-7-43-0; Afford 27-5-57-1; Hindson 10-0-36-1, Mike 18.5-4-67-4

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 5 Derbyshire 7

Warwickshire v Surrey

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Surrey, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 302 runs behind Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

A J Moles run out	2
Wasim Khan b Pigott	19
R G Twose c Stewart b Benjamin	28
D P Ostler lbw b Pigott	208
T L Penney c Thorpe b Nowell	38
*D A Reeve c Kersey b Benjamin	53
†M Burns run out	8
N M K Smith b Hollioake	40
R P Davis lbw b Hollioake	10
A A Donald not out	4
G C Small c Nadeem Shahid b Pigott	3
Extras (b 6, lb 8, w 2, nb 46)	59
Total (149 overs)	470

Score at 120 overs: 381-4

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-54, 3-75, 4-198, 5-301, 6-404, 7-412, 8-445, 9-463

BOWLING: Benjamin 31-5-82-2; Pigott 34-12-82-3; Butcher 16-2-62-0; Nowell 46-13-119-1; Nadeem Shahid 8-0-49-0; Hollioake 16-3-55-2

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell lbw b Reeve	43
M A Butcher c Burns b Donald	54
*A J Stewart b Donald	10
G P Thorpe c Burns b Donald	0
A D Brown b Small	42
A C S Pigott not out	2
A J Hollioake not out	2
Extras (b 4, w 3, nb 8)	15
Total (5 wkts, 66 overs)	168

Nadeem Shahid, †G J Kersey, R W Nowell and J E Benjamin to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-78, 2-98, 3-98, 4-163, 5-166.

BOWLING: Donald 14-2-42-3; Small 13-6-27-1; Davis 18-4-40-0; Smith 15-4-38-0; Reeve 6-2-17-1.

Bonus points: Warwickshire 6 Surrey 1

Somerset v Gloucestershire

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 206 runs behind Gloucestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

A J Wright c Turner b Caddick	75
G D Hodgson c Trescothick b Hayhurst	44
M A Lynch c sub b Mushtaq	105
R I Dawson c Hayhurst b Caddick	3
*M W Alleyne b Mushtaq	71
A Symonds lbw b Mushtaq	8
*†R C Russell lbw b Rose	17
J Smith c Bowler b Rose	13
M C J Ball c Trescothick b Caddick	48
M Davies c Harden b Caddick	11
K P Sheeraz not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 13, w 6, nb 8)	28
Total (136.3 overs)	424

Score at 120 overs: 355-7

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-113, 2-173, 3-195, 4-295, 5-309, 6-351, 7-351, 8-379, 9-408

BOWLING: Caddick 28.3-4-65-4; van Troost 4-0-21-0; Rose 25-4-93-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 46-12-141-3; Hayhurst 10-1-31-1, Trump 21-3-58-0; Trescothick 1-0-3-0.

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Lathwell lbw b Smith	15
M E Trescothick c Russell b Smith	14
P D Bowler not out	78
R J Harden not out	92
Extras (b 3, lb 9, w 1, nb 6)	19
Total (2 wkts, 82 overs)	218

*†A N Hayhurst, †R J Turner, G D Rose, Mushtaq Ahmed, A R Caddick, H R J Trump and A P van Troost to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-42.

BOWLING: Smith 16-2-58-2; Sheeraz 13-1-32-0; Ball 19-2-48-0; Alleyne 16-3-46-0; Dawson 7-4-5-0; Dawes 7-3-9-0; Symonds 4-0-8-0

Bonus points: Somerset 4 Gloucestershire 4

THE TIMES/DILLONS CRICKET FORUM

English cricket — what future?





IS THERE any hope for English cricket? Are the doom-mongers right to say that England will never be a force in the world until they completely reform their present structure? Join Michael Atherton and Graham Gooch (pictured left), Richie Benaud and Micky Stewart — four men who know more about modern English cricket than most — for what promises to be a lively evening of discussion and debate in this *Times*/Dillons forum on Wednesday, May 17.

Chaired by Alan Lee, cricket correspondent of *The Times*, the panel will look at all aspects of the game, from schools cricket to Test matches. There will be plenty of opportunity for the audience to question and debate with the speakers. A book-signing session will follow the forum.

The event will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 at 7.30 pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) are available by ringing 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it with your remittance to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1, where tickets can also be purchased.

Please send me ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for the Times/Dillons Cricket Forum, to be held at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1 on Wednesday, May 17, 1995 at 7.30pm.

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Somerset labour to cover opening flaw

BY RUPERT COX

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 206 runs behind Gloucestershire

IF THE majority of the sparse crowd arrived here yesterday hoping to witness significant contributions from Somerset's precocious opening pair of Lathwell and Trescothick, they were disappointed. Instead, Somerset were given more time to rue their decision to field as Gloucestershire, in an enthralling morning session, took their first-innings total to 424.

It was therefore left to Peter Bowler and Richard Harden to entrench Somerset's position on a wicket made for batting as it lost its verdant tinge. They are remarkably similar players, averaging just below 40 and each having recently passed the 10,000-run mark, and in their phlegmatic and assured manner, they matched each other shot for shot as they dug in.

In stark contrast to their openers, Bowler and Harden have started the season well. Favouring the leg side, which Gloucestershire's threadbare attack fed rather too readily, they accumulated steadily, though Harden survived sharp chances on 22 and 42. Few in the ground would have missed Bowler and Harden's desire to be at the wicket at the close and further punish the visitors' attack as they approached their 21st and 22nd centuries respectively.

In the morning, Gloucestershire put on 75 in the first hour, admirably led by Mark Alleyne and Martyn Ball, who belied his lowly position in the order with 48 from 47 balls. Mushtaq, below his best and vociferous as ever, bowled Alleyne on 71 as he went back to the googly.

It left the Somerset openers with nine overs to negotiate before lunch, which they managed with the odd alarm. They both possess the rare gift of timing and a keen eye but out of form, their footwork is deficient and proved to be their undoing.

The 6ft 3in Indian fast bowler, Javagal Srinath, exposed this frailties in an exemplary spell of two for ten in five overs. He generated good pace from a whippy action to have Lathwell leg-before pushing forward and Trescothick caught behind wafting airily.

As the wicket improves it is hard to see how a result will be achieved. But Gloucestershire lost their first championship game having forced Surrey to follow on, and they may not relish facing Mushtaq and Trump on a wicket increasingly receptive to spin.

Cullinan continues to prove his worth

BY GEOFFREY WHEELER

DARYLL CULLINAN, a peripheral member of the South African touring party to England last year until his brave stand against a fast and furious Devon Malcolm in the second innings of the Oval Test, is rapidly proving his worth as Derbyshire's overseas player.

Cullinan, ambitious to prove himself in county cricket, scored his second century in two championship innings yesterday as Derbyshire recovered from a wobble in mid-innings, caused by the medium pace of Gregory Mike, to gain a lead of 68 over Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

The South African, who scored 134 against Sussex last week to add to an unbeaten 101 against Scotland in the Benson and Hedges Cup, made 131 yesterday, steering his side into the lead during an eighth-wicket partnership of 74 with Karl Krikken.

Lancashire could thank bowlers who stepped into the breach as batsmen for their lead of 121 over Durham at Old Trafford. Glen Chapple, the nightwatchman, stood firm as the specialist batsmen went cheaply, scoring 58 and paving the way for his skipper, Mike Watkinson, to launch a counter-attack.

Watkinson hit four sixes and 16 fours in his 108, made from 122 balls, and, when he was disposed of, the Durham attack took another battering from fast bowler Peter Martin, who scored 71 and put on 89 for the last wicket with Gary Keedy.

Glamorgan, who hope to register the Antiguan all-rounder Hamish Anthony, the successor to Otis Gibson as their overseas player, in time for tomorrow's AXA Equity and Law fixture, also made a spirited recovery against Northamptonshire at Cardiff.

At 79 for four they were still 298 behind, but the crisis brought out the best in Tony Cottey and Adrian Dale, who added 161 in 47 overs, with the pint-sized Cottey reaching the eleventh hundred of his career in just under three hours. He and Dale, who made 61, both fell to the Indian leg spinner, Anil Kumble, who, aided by three smart catches from Richard Montgomerie at short leg, captured five wickets for 65 runs — figures that would have been even better but for a last-wicket partnership of 46 between Colin Metson and Steve Watkin.

With the Northamptonshire lead limited to 43, Watkin nipped out both opening batsmen while 34 runs were scored in eight overs before the close.

Surrey bewitched by Donald's spell

BY JACK BAILEY

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Surrey, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 302 runs behind Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE have served notice that admission to the ground today will be free. The theory that the Edgbaston committee members have been forced into this concession because, after yesterday, they would be lynched if they tried to charge a penny, can be discounted: the decision was made some time ago. For much of the day, however, you could sympathise with those who went along with the rumour, especially if they had left the ground before 5pm.

It was about then that Warwickshire rewarded the faithful with a burst of wicket-taking which did much to dispel memories of a pattern of almost unremitting graft. Allan Donald provided the spark and Dermot Reeve, whose half-century, spread over nearly four hours, contributed to the tedium of the day, was the inspiration.

First, Reeve separated the Surrey opening pair in his first over. Butcher and Bicknell had put on 76 at fewer than two runs an over when Bicknell, trying to work Reeve through mid-wicket, fell leg-before. Then, after one more over from himself, Reeve handed the ball to Donald for a second spell. It proved, by its sheer venom as well as its effectiveness, to be the highlight of the day.

In three balls, Donald sent back Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe. Stewart, beaten by pace, could only lay the bottom of his bat on to a ball which bowled him. Two balls later, Burns did well to hold an inside edge from Thorpe.

Fired up, Donald turned Alistair Brown inside out, hit him on the helmet, had two ferocious appeals turned down and generally put the game into a new setting. Brown survived. Accompanied by Butcher, who for all his slowness — 3¾ hours spent over 50 runs — served his side well before becoming Donald's third victim. Brown went on to play some fine strokes in his 42.

Thus was all that time spent while the two teams circled each other like two cagey old prize-fighters forgiven. Ostler's progress to the first 200 of his career and Neil Smith's brisk innings were shafts of morning light, but as Warwickshire added 123 from 39 overs and Surrey bowled their overs slowly, there was not much to cheer. Nor, indeed, while Bicknell and Butcher were spending 30 overs over 44 runs before tea. But then came Donald.

Saturday portrait: Dennis Conner, by David Miller

Inspirational skipper weathering another storm of controversy

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



Is Dennis Conner, one of the finest match-racers in yachting history, no worse than a loveable ogre, nasty but nice, or is he a straightforward involuntary boor? His more loyal friends say he is working to improve his bruised public image, yet the truth is that even some Americans hope the man who has won the America's Cup four times will now lose it for the second time.

In the land of the compulsive winning mentality, something must be seriously amiss to cause such loss of public sympathy. There is more to it than the manipulation of the race regulations that has seen Conner win a defenders' final series from which he had already been eliminated, and then switch to a rival boat to contest the challenge round against *Black Magic*, the New Zealand challenger. This campaign has witnessed the best and worst of the famed sporting street-fighter.

While his dogged, occasionally *inspired leadership has extracted the maximum from Stars & Stripes*, the slowest of three United States hulls in the series, his on-shore behaviour has often been surly or loutish. Despite all the hyperbole about American solidarity, when Conner's crew were allowed to jump ship onto *Young America*, the rival maintenance team engraved teardrops on the face of the mermaid that decorates *Young America's* bow.

Throughout the series, Conner *consistently ignored the women's* crew of *Mighty Mary*, never speaking to Leslie Egnot, their soft-voiced but resolute helmswoman, and condoning sexist insults by the crew during close-range manoeuvres at sea. At a cocktail party, Conner asked *Mighty Mary's* navigator, Annie Nelson, the wife of *Young America's* designer, Bruce Nelson, a *former crew colleague of his*, what it was like being with a bunch of lesbians. She threw a full glass over him, obliging him to return home. An embarrassed Bill Koch, owner of *Mighty Mary*, lamely attempted to excuse the "locker-room jest".

This is the man who, some years ago, tried to prevent Paul Cayard, now his helmsman, from becoming a member of the San Diego Yacht Club. Cayard was then the protégé of Tom Blackaller, Conner's arch-rival. Cayard, generously, has forgiven him.

"In the Eighties, Dennis was single-minded and didn't care about anything except winning," Cayard has said. "If he was rude, it didn't matter to him. Now, at 52, *he's more concerned about what* he is perceived to be."

Not always. At the final media *conference before the challenge* round, Conner stomped irritably out of the meeting at the finish, refusing to answer a simple question on his emotional mood going into his seventh final. "John can answer that," he snapped.

John Marshall, the head of the *Young America* syndicate, has done a rapid somersault. Three weeks ago, he was proclaiming "the end of the Conner era". Now, suddenly once more in harmony, Conner is worthy of support.

> **'There is a defiance about him that *is noble. He has* refused to concede, whatever the odds'**

If they gave British-style *international caps for America's Cup* races, Conner would probably wear his in bed. There is the suspicion that without the *separation* from more normal life when aboard a yacht under sail, or the insularity of a loyal, similarly obsessive crew, he feels insecure, even inferior.

Off the water, he is like a lion-tamer without his lion. His voice *carries a hesitancy. Failure, even* the possibility of failure, bothers him. Hence, perhaps, his evasive response to the question on his mood when facing a Kiwi boat that has won 37 of its 38 races in the series. For a man who has achieved all he has, not winning an Olympic gold medal nags him.

The defeat at Newport, Rhode Island, by *Australia II* in 1983 is scorched on his soul. I remember, as if it were yesterday, him shouldering his way through the milling crowds of joyous Australian supporters to attend the post-race conference, having inexplicably surrendered a winning lead in the seventh and last race. This was the master tactician who never usually made an error, whose first biography was entitled *No Excuse to Lose*.

He was alone and close to tears. *The shell-shocked New York Yacht* Club committee, who had stood frozen in disbelief on the deck of their committee boat, *in defeat* now abandoned the hick "loser" from California. "We sailed well, I'm proud of *Liberty's* crew," Conner said, before hastening out into darkness, knowing they had excelled against the innovative Australian boat. In that moment, you felt for him. There is a defiance in him that is noble. It was there when, eyes bloodshot and skin parched by the southern sun, he regained the cup in 1987. It has been there throughout this campaign, *considering that his under*-funded *Stars & Stripes* was the slowest boat. He has refused to concede, whatever the odds.

It is this which makes Tom Whidden, his ever-loyal tactician, say: "I feel *his* [bad] image *is* ridiculous. He's a nice guy."

That Conner's emotions are close to the surface was apparent after *Stars & Stripes* came from *four minutes behind to qualify as* the United States defender, *Mighty Mary* having sailed into a windless hole on the final leg. Barely across the finishing line, Conner stated: "Anybody in touch with reality would not be looking forward to defending the cup with this boat."

Later, some time after midnight, neighbours at Conner's rented *house were awakened by shouting* in the street. Conner was loudly arguing with Daintry, his young second wife. "You can't go out again, it's not safe [at this time of night]," she was insisting. Conner, clearly weary from celebrations, was proclaiming: "I beat them all today . . . and I need a faster boat!"

Such is Conner's reputation among contemporaries that Gary Jobson, a former cup skipper and now commentator, has forecast an American victory over the formi*dable opponents* discreetly led by Peter Blake. Jobson reasons that *Young America* is the fastest defender and has been tested by more close races than *Black Magic*, and that no New Zealander has previously sailed in the final.

Yet the charge of manipulation hangs heavily over Conner; not least that, having switched boats, he has also been permitted by the race committee to transfer *Stars & Stripes'* allowance of new sails, less expended than *Young America's* because of budget shortage.

Conner defends the changes, saying that the regulations allowed alteration "by mutual consent of the three participating defenders" and that there has been no complaint from Bill Koch. The New Zealanders may sense sharp practice; yet their own publicity brochure, published four months ago, specifically made the point that Conner could conceivably change boats.

Expediency has lived side by side with Conner a long while. During lengthy court battles between the Sail America Foundation and Michael Fay's ill-fated New Zealand challenger, San Diego Yacht Club's brief to arbitrators stated: "It is repugnant to any sense of fair play and sportsmanlike competition, as well as to the Deed of Gift [of the cup], for the syndicate of Sail America to have the opportunity to manipulate the rules, trials, defender selection and site of the next America's Cup races, in order to favour its own yacht and its own skipper."

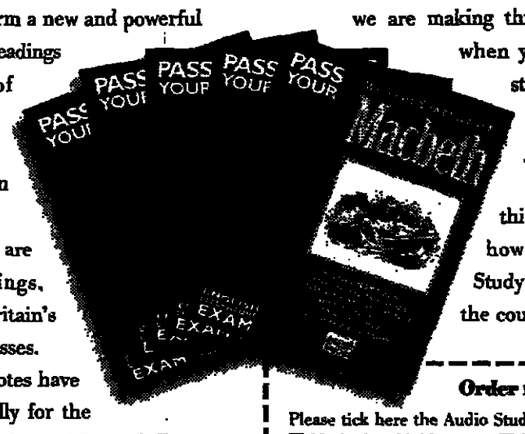
When the opening gun fires today at 21.15 BST, Conner is fighting not just a slick rival seeking New Zealand's first win in four attempts, but for his own credibility.

THE TIMES

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Hamed set on early disposal of Mexican

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NASEEM HAMED, the World Boxing Council inter*national super-bantamweight* champion, who has walked through all opposition placed before him, defends against an awkward Mexican, Enrique Angeles at Shepton Mallett tonight.

The Sheffield showman who, according to his promoter, Frank Warren, makes the outrageous Hector Camacho look like a shrinking violet, should perform his stuff on the unsuspecting visitor. Hamed, who has made £1 million boxing for Warren, is not likely to let Angeles get in the way of more millions. Hamed said: "He moves a bit, but I think I'll be too strong."

Brendan Ingle, Hamed's trainer, said: "He [Angeles] is sharp and accurate, but Naz is really getting his body weight into his punches now. Any*body he hits he'll knock out.* We are not underestimating the fellow, but I can't see him going more than five rounds. Naz could even do it in three."

Hill's, the bookmakers, also believe the bout will not go more than five rounds.

All the same, Angeles is believed to be an improvement on the last Mexican imported for Hamed, Amando Castro, who is described by Eric Armit, the boxing statistician, as being a "well worn, face-first plodder" by the time he met Hamed.

Angeles is a different proposition. He is young — at 22, just a year older than Hamed — and at 5ft 7in, four inches taller. The former Mexican super-bantamweight champion is a southpaw, like Hamed, and an ambitious boxer-puncher who has never been on the floor.

Hamed will be the Mexican's first world-class opponent. Because of his height and southpaw stance, for a while he could certainly make it difficult for Hamed to work him out. But it is unlikely that the Mexican will be able to stand up to the Yorkshireman's firepower for much longer than three or four rounds.

Warders no substitute for prisoners in final analysis

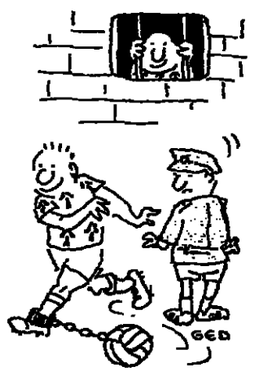


SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

There are a number of drawbacks to being in prison. One of these is the depressing fact that they will not let you go out, even if you really want to. For example, supposing you got to the Les Bishop Cup final and had *the chance to take on Victoria* Rangers. They are still going to say, "I'm frightfully sorry but you have to stay in prison".

So it was that Channings Wood Prison, in Devon, were forced to field 11 substitutes in the aforementioned final. The side, an effective outfit in the South Devon League when fielding a team of prisoners, was forced to line up with warders. Moral: poachers tend to be fitter than gamekeepers. The screws lost 16-1.

The team manager, Billy Walker, who is 54 and a PE



instructor at the prison, had to play himself. The average age of the side was 43. Walker summed up: "They" — surely a football *manager should say* we? — "have to play all their league matches inside, both *home and away. But with a* game as important as a cup final, it has to be played on a *neutral ground. Despite our* appeals to the Home Office, they wouldn't let the lads out.

"It wouldn't have been so bad, but we didn't have a goalie. Our normal goalie finished his sentence last week and he promised to come back for the final but he didn't turn up. So one of the staff, David Fay, went in goal in his place but he was injured a few minutes into the game and had to go off.

"Because of staff shortages at the prison, we simply didn't have enough warders to take a substitute with us, so we played most of the match with ten men."

Rare double

The sun shines, a cuckoo calls outside the window and the first school cricket report unwinds gracefully from the fax machine. I learn that James Beechcroft and Kris (who taught his parents to spell?) Jones both did the hat-trick in the same match, playing for Bloxham School under-15s against Cokethorpe School. The only problem is what to do with the match ball, traditionally presented by the school to anyone who performs the hat-trick. The team coach, Nigel Furley, is wondering how to divide a cricket ball in two. Life really ought to be like this.

Press gangs

We British journos have it soft. Our hooligans tend to beat up each other, or, *in extremis*, the police. In Italy, they turn on the press. Blaming the press for the evils of life is a sport of global dimension, and one taken with particular seriousness by Mandrake, of Foggia. Mandrake, real name Emilio Cavelli, specialises in *terrorising journos*. He chanced to meet two of his favourite football writers in a *bar and allegedly threatened* them with death and attacked them. A third journalist has also been the subject of death threats. This follows yet another alleged death threat, made to the same two journalists it is claimed he assaulted in the bar. It happens that this particular threat was made two years ago, and criminal action was taken against Mandrake. In the remorseless way of Italian justice, the case comes up for its second hearing this coming Thursday. This column is not taking this lightly. I will keep a sharp lookout for potential Mandrakes among the three-day eventing crowd at Badminton this weekend.

Same old story

It is difficult to reinvent your*self. Mike Tyson is known* to have some problem areas in his life, most particularly with sex and with motor cars. Since his release from prison, he has bought himself three Bentley Azure convertibles, which seems rather a lot. He has also been answering questions under oath at an attorney's office in New York about sex. Phyllis Polaner, the former press secretary of his former wife, Robin Givens, has been *claiming sexual harassment.* She hit Tyson with a civil lawsuit in August 1990, but since then the matter, like Tyson himself, has been in cold storage.

Dog's life

Unlike football, sled-dog racing really is a life and death matter. At least, it is for the dogs. The Iditarod, the great trans-Alaska race, is having a *crackdown, not before time,* on sled-drivers — mushers, to be technical — who drive their *dogs to death. Two dogs died* on the trail during the event this year. A new rule has been brought in, under which any competitor who kills a dog will be disqualified. However, you are let off if you have a dog die of what they call "external forces". This means if your dog is killed by a moose.

☐ *Never mind the Iditarod: think of the poor loonies who will set out at six this evening to row from Arklow, in Ireland, to Aberystwyth, in Wales. Nine teams aim to make the trip in fixed-seat longboats; there are two women crews and one mixed. The event, which is called the Celtic Challenge, is sponsored by Stena Sealink. The firm clearly does not see the long-boats as a threat to business.*

Ten years on, burns unit that saved lives after Valley Parade fire faces closure

Bradford's survivors still refuse to forget



ROB HUGHES
Weekend View

The Bradford City team whose promotion celebration turned into football's most horrific inferno ten years ago will come together again tomorrow night in the Valley Parade grandstand that was rebuilt, literally, out of the ashes of May 11, 1985. The players' reunion has a compelling purpose: to raise funds and to try to help save the burns unit that worked heroically to keep down the number of dead to 56 spectators, and to soothe the wounds of 285 more.

Because of fire regulations, the banqueting hall of the Valley Parade stand can seat only 130 people. The numbers were quickly subscribed for tomorrow's dinner, £7 per head being donated to the plastic surgery and burns research unit at Bradford University which, with proceeds from a raffle of players' personal mementoes, should add £1,000 to the £1,740 from a bucket collection taken during last week's home game against Blackpool.

Perhaps crazily in this era of multi-million pound transfers, indeed of footballing millionaires, the burns unit requires just £50,000 to keep going for another year — £50,000 that, to the well-heeled Premiership clubs, is a pittance. But Bradford are below that line of wealth: they operate almost where they did a decade ago, and there is no promotion on the horizon this weekend as there was then when that young team won the third division championship.

Peter Jackson, the captain then and today, at 33, a player with Chester, planned tomorrow's reunion. "It seemed the appropriate time to get the players together to see if we can benefit the burns unit," he says. Jackson, a defender on the field and something of a defender of the conscience of often maligned football players, has worked with Jean Calvert, the secretary of the Bradford City Supporters' Club, who, with her then young daughter, had been in the stand on the day of the fire.

The player and the supporter are determined to pool their efforts to rescue a unit in distress. At the dinner they will renew acquaintance with David Sharpe, the consultant whose unit it is and whose efforts in 1985 quickly brought together a third of the country's leading plastic surgeons to work night and day in the aftermath of the tragedy.

Sharpe has tried every avenue he can to raise funds. "I have tried the Millennium Fund, tried everything I can think of, and now it seems wonderful that the players and supporters are coming to our aid," he says. Indeed, so expert had his young research team in Bradford become that they went, free of charge, to assist in the Piper Alpha disaster of 1988. When the struggle to keep his unit going became intense, Sharpe wrote to the late Armand Hammer, the chairman of Occidental Petroleum, and received the chilling response: "It is not company policy" [to make donations].

> 'We keep going. It's part of life isn't it?'

He is not surprised that it is the Bradford-born Jackson who now leads the public campaign to save the unit. Jackson had been a frequent visitor to the 70 in-patients immediately after the fire, had been prominent in the raising of £4 million for the disaster fund and had never, though his career took him to Newcastle United and now to Chester "gone away".

Like many stoic Yorkshire folk, Jackson sees his effort as "nowt special". He says: "We couldn't stop to think very much of the psychological effects in 1985. It was something we had to get on with. I was captain, it was my responsibility to do what I could and to lead the players."

So, tomorrow, Stuart McCall comes down from Glasgow, from Middlesbrough comes John Hendrie ... from all their various clubs come nine of the team. Jackson cannot locate just two, Tony Clegg and Martin Singleton.

If they hear of the reunion, they are welcome. So would be Joanne Baron, the youngest heroine of the tragedy, if only she were willing to attend. Miss Baron was *The Times* face of "that awful disaster, a child of elfin looks and shy manner who, at the age of ten, attending her first football match, had escaped from the fire, but returned back into the flames to rescue an old man.

She saw the man fall down some steps. She climbed over seats and helped him to his feet. He fell again, knocking Joanne over. Her legs became burned, her hand will bear the scar of the fire for life, but still she struggled to drag the man down to a wall where police, the other often unheralded heroes of such affairs, hauled both the child and the pensioner to safety.

Today Joanne Baron is reluctant to expose herself to further publicity. Even on the day of her commendation, she refused to see it as an act of courage. Her words were: "I just saw the man."

Her spirit, and that of 50 other people whom the local chief constable commended for bravery, undoubtedly saved many lives. It was, out of the dreadful flames of a stadium tragedy caused by ignoring the warnings, the thankful side of human nature, the reminder that, for all that is ever said or written about football supporters, they share the capacity for caring and trusting those whom they accompany to the stadium. And, even after they have been tested in the most horrendous ways imaginable, the game draws them on.

Jackson remains a vivid memory from that harrowing afternoon, captured on television wandering towards the fire in search of his missing — but, thankfully, safe — father, and then leading the evacuation of many people towards the safety of the turf.

Jean Calvert and her then 13-year-old daughter were among those unaffected by flames or fumes but will always be reminded of the dangers around us. Why did her loyalty to Bradford City remain long after every player, every director, every member of the backroom staff at the club had departed?

"I'd never known anything else," she says. "Dad started taking me to Valley Parade when I was ten, 40 years ago. I was at the funeral service at Bradford Cathedral last week of Stafford Heginbotham, who was chairman of the club ten years ago. We keep going. It's part of life, isn't it?" Thankfully, for some, it is.





DAVID THOMSON

Jackson, as Bradford City captain, attended the memorial service for the fire's victims in 1985 and today reflects on what more he can do to help



Joanne Baron was pictured with the singer Shakin' Stevens after her commendation

Ferguson prepares to turn the screw on Blackburn

BY PETER BALL AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

A MONTH ago, Manchester United looked to have thrown away their hopes of the FA Carling Premiership title, with three goalless home draws in four matches. Instead, for the umpteenth time this season, United have the opportunity of exerting real pressure on Blackburn Rovers, when they play Sheffield Wednesday at Old Trafford tomorrow.

Blackburn's sudden decline — they have collected only four points from a possible 12 — has again opened the way. There have been signs, too, that it is all beginning to take its toll, with Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, complaining yesterday that the sport's "snipers" were out to get them. However, time is running out and United cannot let the chance slip.

"Whether or not we are surprised to have another chance, we're there and we have to take it," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday. "That is the important thing. We've had too many chances already and blown them. It is now definitely the last chance." If United beat Wednesday, they will cut Blackburn's lead to two points, with two games remaining. Blackburn's next match is at home to Newcastle United on Monday.

United's re-entry into the race was signalled by the 3-2 away win at Coventry City on Monday, when Andy Cole scored two classic striker's goals in a vibrant performance. "He is improving all the time," Ferguson said. "He has been outstanding in training and it is not just his goalscoring. His overall play is getting better and better."

Wednesday may need a point to be safe from relegation but Aston Villa are in greater danger, with a lot depending on how much motivation Liverpool can muster on their visit to Villa Park this afternoon. "There will be no complacency from us," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "How could any player be complacent in the atmosphere generated by a full Villa Park?" A question, with Villa only two points above the danger zone, that might be addressed to some of Brian Little's players.

Everton, who may still need a win to be safe, could have wished for easier visitors than Southampton in their last home game, while Crystal Palace continue their fight against increasing odds with a home game against West Ham United, who are also flirting with the possibility of Endsleigh Insurance League football next season.

Defeat for Palace would not quite condemn them but a similar result for Norwich City, combined with draws for Villa and Everton, would as good as send the Norfolk side plummeting from the premier league. Norwich travel to Leeds United, who are chasing a Uefa Cup place and have won seven of their last ten league matches.

There is little to decide in the first division, unless Barnsley surprisingly pip Tranmere Rovers for a play-off place, but the second division offers an intriguing situation if Birmingham City draw 1-1 with Huddersfield Town and Brentford beat Bristol Rovers 4-0. It would leave Birmingham and Brentford level at the top on points, goals scored and goals conceded — forcing a play-off at a neutral venue.

Pittodrie opponents haunted by spectre of relegation



Snelders: returning

Kevin McCarra reports on the troubles of Aberdeen and Dundee United, who meet this afternoon

A GLIMPSE of the good old days can fill a supporter with foreboding. For weeks, images from Aberdeen's 1983 Cup Winners' Cup final win over Real Madrid and Dundee United's defeat of Barcelona in a Uefa Cup tie four years later have been flashing up on Scotland's television screens. The glory, however, is there only as a reminder of the decline at both clubs.

This afternoon at Pittodrie the successors of those hallowed teams will attempt to consign one another to the first division. Aberdeen are in the automatic relegation position at the bottom of the table, but Dundee United stand only a point ahead of them. Should Aberdeen lose their fate is sealed and United, with a single fixture left, will, at the very worst, have a play-off to ensure survival. Defeat for the visitors, however, would make them favourites for automatic demotion. Much attention has been paid to the Pittodrie club's plight throughout the season, but the panic in Dundee is a more abrupt development. Since Billy Kirkwood was appointed manager in succession to Ivan Golac last month his team have played five matches and lost four of them.

That run has hurtled them towards Aberdeen at the sort of pace that usually leaves skid marks. Kirkwood may have sensed the harrowing nature of his new profession only nine seconds into his first game when Rangers scored the opener in a 2-0 win. Last weekend Hibernian scored the only goal, for the sake of variety, in the closing seconds of the match at Tannadice. An improvement in luck is certainly required at Pittodrie, for Aberdeen might have picked the four United players who will be suspended this afternoon: Brian Welsh, Billy McKinlay, Dave Bowman and Gordan Petric. The inherent weakness of the team with which he is left forces Kirkwood to a shuddering consideration of relegation.

"It would hurt very badly," he said. "I was only appointed in time for the last seven games but I would forever be associated with it. A lot of people say it would be beneficial to go down and have a season to regroup but I can't agree."

Both United and, to a lesser extent, Aberdeen are victims of the lack of talent emerging in Scotland. At Tannadice there was a particular pride taken in the knack of turning schoolboys such as Paul Sturrock, David Narey and Maurice Malpas into internationals. Nowadays, however, raw material is in short supply.

Accordingly, United have tried to rebuild by buying budget-priced ready-made players from abroad. This has helped maintain the strict wage structure at Tannadice that ensures that the club would take no debt with them into the first division but very few of the obscure signings have made any impact.

If United do remain in the top flight they will surely have to find a way of rearranging their budget. As Aberdeen know, however, even extravagance has its risks. They spent heavily under Willie Miller's management and acquired only an ill-assorted team.

His successor, Roy Aitken, though, saw Aberdeen win at Tynecastle last weekend and will today reintroduce his goalkeeper, Theo Snelders, after a two-month absence through injury. Every ticket for a cruel fixture was sold by Wednesday, but then they do say there also used to be an enthusiastic audience for public hangings.

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Black Magic can break Conner's spell

Barry Pickthall finds the New Zealand team confident of wresting the America's Cup from the determined grasp of the San Diego YC

JUDGING by the money changing hands in Las Vegas, where the odds are 3-1 against Dennis Conner and 2-1 on Team New Zealand, there are more Americans backing New Zealand to wrest the America's Cup from the United States than there are New Zealanders.

But the Las Vegas odds do not reflect reality. The best-of-nine match series off Point Loma, starting today, is likely to be much closer. What they do reflect is an awareness among Americans from New York to nearby Newport Beach is that the San Diego Yacht Club has, somehow, bent the rules *again* to keep the cup at all costs.

"The cup has lost its appeal. All this re-writing of the rules to keep Conner in the competition has taken the sport out of the event. I want to see it go to New Zealand," one San Diego shopkeeper was telling his customers yesterday.

Few can understand how Conner, knocked out by Bill Koch's women's team in the semi-finals, was then allowed to compete in the finals simply because his sponsors had not received the television airtime they deserved; or how, having won the Citizen Cup defender trials in his own yacht, *Stars & Stripes*, he can defend the trophy using a rival boat.

Conner went some way towards rationalising recent events by pointing to the 144-year history of the cup and how the New York YC, which ruled supreme for 132 of those years before finally succumbing to Alan Bond's Australian assault in 1983, often mixed and matched crews and yachts to gain the strongest possible defence.

There is no doubt that the crew of *Stars & Stripes* sailing *Young America* provide the strongest combination for the defence. *Young America*, skippered during the trials by Olympic silver medal-winner Kevin Mahaney, went into the finals with a 21-7 win/loss record against 13-15 for *Stars & Stripes*. It was only when *Young America* experimented with winglets on the bottom of her rudder and Mahaney was distracted by divorce papers that cracks began to appear in the campaign. The winglets have since been removed, but few other changes, outside a new set of sails, have been made since Conner's crew took over the yacht five days ago.

Russell Coutts and his crew have had much longer to prepare and have been working daily to make improvements since qualifying on April 19 by winning the Louis Vuitton Cup trials during which they had a remarkable 37-1 win/loss record.

That single defeat, at the hands of John Bertrand's *oneAustralia*, came on a day when the syndicate head, Peter Blake, who mans the mainsheet traveller on *Black Magic*, and his lucky red socks were not onboard. Coutts is superstitious enough to insist that Blake's English wife, Pippa, must put the rolled up socks onboard if tendinitis in the elbows keeps Blake off the boat.

Statistics show that the New Zealanders have a two to six per cent advantage upwind in light conditions and and are almost equal in speed downwind. Above ten knots, however, there seems little between *Black Magic* and *Young America*.

In these conditions it will be team work, not technology that decides the outcome. Yesterday, Conner confessed he could see no weaknesses in the New Zealand camp. "They have the best sailmaker in the world in Tom Schnackenberg, one of the top match-race skippers in the world, and Brad Butterworth as tactician."

Robert Hopkins, who was the navigator on *Young America* until this week, believes the Kiwis have an edge. "They are going to be tough to beat. Their boat is very fast."

David Allan-Williams, the British designer within the New Zealand team is also confident. "It will be tight, but it is my bet the final score will be 5-2. None of us liked the prospect of racing the women's team, but the lads are relishing the prospect of knocking Conner off. They have a few scores to settle."

DETAILS

Stars & Stripes v Team New Zealand
Best-of-nine finals: Today: first race; Monday: second race; Tuesday: third race; Thursday: fourth race; Friday: fifth race, May 14th: sixth race, May 15th: seventh race; May 16th: eighth race; May 20th: ninth race
* if necessary
Team New Zealand: *Black Magic* (37 wins, one defeat) beat *oneAustralia* 5-1 in challenger finals. Skipper: Russell Coutts. Tactician: Brad Butterworth
Stars & Stripes: *Young America* (24 wins, 12 defeats acquired for finals). Skipper: Dennis Conner. Helmsman: Paul Cayard. Tactician: Tom Whidden

Conway leads way for England juniors

THE England under-21 hockey team won the junior European Nations Cup qualifying tournament at Genoa yesterday with a 2-0 victory over Italy, securing maximum points from all five matches (Sydney Friskin writes).

How many from this team will exceed the age limit by the time the event is held in Denmark next year remains to be seen; but there is little doubt that the squad that went to Genoa contained some of the best young prospects in the country. These included Nick Conway, who finished with nine goals, and Daniel Hall, with eight.

In the match yesterday, Hall opened the scoring for England in the 42nd minute from a short corner. Alistair Boyse hit the second goal in the 57th minute with a fine solo effort. Scotland finished third with a 2-1 victory over Portugal, but they will not be in Denmark. Only two teams, England and Italy, qualified from this tournament.

The craze for novelty might draw spectators to any one of eight venues to see the effect of experimental rules in the Norwich Union county championship today and tomorrow. Goals can be scored from anywhere within the 25-yard area. The offside rule will apply only when the ball is first hit into the 25-yard area.

The winners from each of the eight pools will move into the quarter-finals on May 20 at Portsmouth, where the tournament will conclude the following day.

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YACHTING 46-47
BLACK MAGIC CAN BREAK CONNER'S AMERICA'S CUP SPELL

Celtic Swing the star turn of momentous weekend

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

COMETH the hour, cometh the horse? An historic weekend which sees the first Sunday race meetings staged in Britain with on-course betting could be capped by the exploits of one of the most exciting Flat horses in recent times.

Celtic Swing, who is threatening to exhaust the sporting superlatives with his racecourse performances, is likely to be sent off the shortest-priced favourite for the Madagans 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket this afternoon since the mighty Nijinsky obliged in 1970.

If the unbeaten colt, owned by Peter Savill and trained at Angmering Park by Lady Anne Herries, beats his ten rivals, he will be hailed as one of the greats of the Turf, alongside the likes of Tudor Minstrel, Brigadier Gerard and El Gran Senor — and be as short as even money to win the Derby at Epsom.

If he meets with defeat, the bookmakers will have been saved a massive pay-out and have every reason to look forward to the inaugural Sunday race meetings.

While Swingmania has reached fever pitch in a relatively short space of time, the arrival of on-course betting on Sundays follows a slow-burn campaign which began a decade ago and only came to fruition last May when MPs voted by a majority of 101 in favour of changing the law.

Tomorrow Newmarket will stage the Madagans 1,000 Guineas, contested by 15 fillies, while Salisbury puts on a six-race card. A further 22 Sunday meetings will take place this year.

The British Horseracing Board, which spearheaded the final push towards legalising betting on Sunday, is keen to attract a new audience to Sunday fixtures — particularly first-time, young and family-orientated racegoers — and is marketing racing on the seventh day with the slogan "Sunday Is Funday At the Races."

A record crowd of 25,000 is expected at Newmarket today and tomorrow and should Celtic Swing justify the hype which has been heaped on his head, the impact could be critical for a sport which has made rapid strides in the 1990s and is keen to become more consumer friendly.

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2,000 Guineas preview 42
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Nick Lees, clerk of the course at Newmarket, reflected yesterday: "I think he is the first Flat racing horse since Nijinsky that has truly caught the imagination of the racing public. I can tell from the advance bookings we have had and the questions people have been asking us that he really is considered a superstar. Let's hope he lives up to it."

Peter Savill, the colt's Yorkshire-born owner, who made himself a multi-millionaire from magazine publishing, is reputed to have paid around £20,000 for the unfashionably-bred colt. Victory today would make the horse one of the most valuable in the world with a potential stud value estimated to be £10 million.

Somehow Savill has kept remarkably calm amid all the razzmatazz of recent weeks. Yesterday, as the sun dried out the Rowley Mile course at Newmarket, he expressed some concern that firmish ground would not be ideal for his horse — but his confidence about the outcome remains intact.

"Everything has gone well and the horse is extremely well. He worked nicely earlier this week, he has tightened up following his recent run at Newbury, and his blood tests show he is absolutely spot on and we are very hopeful.

"I have been in racing a long time and had a lot of setbacks. This would be the biggest, probably of all time, but I am ready for it, if it happens. My gut feeling is that he will win, but you never know. It is a very good Guineas and there are several unbeaten horses in the race. I learnt a long time ago that unbeaten horses are good horses until they are beaten."

Savill should know. And at around 3.45 this afternoon his unbeaten horse may be regarded as one of the best for generations.

Fates conspire against Bath

Injured Hall deprived of fitting finale

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE fates have conspired against Bath all season and yesterday they struck their last, gleeful blow by removing John Hall, the captain, from English rugby union's showpiece, the Pilkington Cup final, against Wasps at Twickenham today. It was to be Hall's last appearance, at 33, before retiring.

That so distinguished a career should have ended anonymously when Hall trudged off with a damaged shoulder in the first half of the league game with Sale last week is sad for club and player. Late on Thursday Bath lost another international, Mike Catt, with a strained hamstring, but only when he underwent a tackling exercise at the Recreation Ground yesterday morning did Hall realise his first-class career was over.

"I could probably ghost my way through an ordinary match but not a cup final," Hall said. Finals mean much to Bath. They have been in eight of them since 1984 and have won every one, Hall playing in six and raising the trophy as captain last season as part of a league and cup double. Today, part of Bath's motivation was to bid a happy farewell to him and to Tony Swift, the wing who is also retiring, and words could not describe Hall's disappointment.

The captaincy passes to Phil de Glanville and Steve Ojomoh, yet another of Bath's chain of internationals, joins the back row, while Richard Butland, 22, plays in his first final against England's most-capped stand-off half, Rob Andrew. "We know we are up against it," Hall said. "There'll be no problem with motivation."

It has been that kind of tortuous season for Bath, almost inevitably after the departure last year of the most experienced half-back pairing in England, Richard Hill and Stuart Barnes, and of their coach, Jack Rowell, to the national team. That they have sustained a challenge for the league and cup is a mark of their quality in what, by common consent, was always going to be a rebuilding season.

Expansive game 40
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In addition, they have been twisted and turned by the selectors of three countries. One Ireland, two Scotland and now three England internationals, plus an England squad prop, John Mallett, sit this match out in what has become a challenge to the Bath ethos that you are only as good as your next match. Hence their positive selection of young players such as Gareth Adams and Kevin Yates, and the serious consideration they gave to omitting Jeremy Guscott from the midfield. Commitment to Bath is a credo to which others may pay lip service but the five World Cup players who grace their ranks will be expected to observe it to the letter.

Yet for the first time since 1988, Bath could end a season without one of the two leading domestic trophies. The league has already gone to Leicester and in Bath's way today stand the team they beat in the finals of 1986 and 1987. For many people the London club have been the find of the season, with their broad, 15-man game that has carried them to Twickenham and to a record 58 league tries.

Can they play it on Twickenham's broad acres, in front of a 60,000 full house? They know they can beat Bath. They lost only 12-9 at the Recreation Ground in the autumn and won the return league match 11-10 at Sudbury, but the need to have something to show for their efforts is becoming paramount. "We need this trophy to back up our style," Dean Ryan, their captain, who seeks to break into the duopoly created by Bath and Leicester, said. "For us the great aura surrounding Bath has gone. We have a 50-50 chance and that makes a change because we have always been underdogs before."

Remarkably in modern rugby, neither side offers a dominating lineout. There is no bigger heart in English rugby than Nigel Redman's but the stuffing has been knocked out of him by his omission from the England World Cup squad. If ever there was a time to raise his game it is now, but the loss of Hall also removes the man who won most of Bath's lineout ball in the critical league match against Leicester. Wasps offer a converted back-row forward, Matt Greenwood, at lock, alongside Norm Hadley, the intimidating Canadian, who is no great technician.

In any case, Wasps have eschewed the set-pieces for much of this season and have every reason to do so again today. They will surely try to carry the battle to Bath from the start and if Bath respond in kind, as they have the capacity to do, the occasion may wipe away memories of the ill-tempered affair against Leicester last year. If ever Bath were vulnerable it is now — the trouble is, they may not see it that way.

TWICKENHAM TEAMS

BATH		WASPS
J Callard	Full back	J Ufton
A Swift	Right wing	P Hopley
P de Glanville (captain)	Centre	D Hopley
J Guscott	Centre	G Childs
A Adebayo	Left wing	N Greenstock
R Butland	Stand-off	R Andrew
I Sanders	Scrum half	S Bates
K Yates	Prop	D Molloy
G Adams	Hooker	K Dunn
V Ubogu	Prop	I Dunston
A Robinson	Flanker	L Dallaglio
M Haag	Lock	M Greenwood
N Redman	Lock	N Hadley
S Ojomoh	Flanker	M White
B Clarke	No 8	D Ryan (captain)

Referee: J Pearson (Durham)

REPLACEMENTS: 17 M Olsen, 18 G Dawe, 19 J Mallett, 20 P McCoy, 21 J Sleightholme, 22 A Lumsden.

REPLACEMENTS: 16 H Davies, 17 G Gregory, 18 A Gomarsall, 19 R Kinsey, 20 G Holmes, 21 P Delaney.



William Fox-Pitt, riding Chaka, who won Burghley last year, leads after the dressage section of the Badminton Horse Trials. Report, page 44. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Hingis in semi-final for the first time

By Our Sports Staff

MARTINA HINGIS, of Switzerland, reached a senior semi-final for the first time in her tennis career yesterday with a 7-6, 6-1 victory over Judith Wiesner, of Austria, at the Hamburg Open women's clay-court tournament.

Hingis, 14, held her nerve on the important points against the No 7 seed to move into a semi-final today with Anke Huber, of Germany, the No 5 seed, who advanced with a 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory over her compatriot, Petra Begerow.

Wiesner led Hingis 5-4 and served for the first set. She pulled ahead but Hingis battled back to gain a break chance and a tiring Wiesner double-faulted to tie the set at 5-5. Both held their service to go to a tie-break, and Hingis fell behind by losing her serve and a second point on Wiesner's. The two played to 4-4 before Hingis pulled ahead for good, taking the next three points to win.

Hingis's concentration is improving as she gains experience — she turned professional late last year — but the conqueror of the former Wimbledon finalist, Jana Novotna, in the second round is still learning to deal with the physical demands of top-class competition.

"I was still a bit tired from the Novotna match," Hingis said. "That is why I went for quick winners and that did not always go well." Hingis is restricted to 12 tournaments a year because of her age but she is eager to play more. "One a month is not enough," she said.

Conchita Martínez, the Wimbledon champion, routed Jana Kandarr, of Germany, 6-1, 6-0. Martínez will face the winner of a match between Magdalena Maleeva, of Bulgaria, and Barbara Rittner, of Germany, in the semi-finals.

Tranmere youth tests positive

By John Goodbody

JAMIE HUGHES, 17, a YTS trainee with Tranmere Rovers, yesterday became the first English footballer to be charged with using a performance-enhancing drug.

However, Hughes has claimed that he is innocent, saying that the amphetamine stimulant may have been dropped into his drink without his knowledge, when he was in a night club.

The Football Association, already unsettled by the series of drug scandals this season, has not accepted Hughes' explanation and has charged the player with bringing the game into disrepute.

Football has been damaged in recent months by the admission of Paul Merson, the Arsenal and England player, that he had taken cocaine and the discovery that Chris Armstrong, the Crystal Palace forward, and two Charlton Athletic youngsters had also used recreational drugs.

Amphetamine, popularly known as "speed", is a social drug, which can also be used as a stimulant. What makes the case curious is that the substance was found in a training ground sample and not in an actual match. Unless the player was trying to impress his club by using drugs to raise his training performances, then he would seem to have a strong case to be exonerated.

Frank Corfe, the Tranmere chairman, thinks the player is innocent."We are totally convinced that there was no performance-enhancing intention.","" he said.

Carr and Ramprakash put Hampshire to sword



Carr: in full bloom

By Pat Gibson

LORD'S (second day of four): Middlesex, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 362 runs ahead of Hampshire

FOR all his phenomenal scoring feats last year, Brian Lara did not finish top of the first-class averages. That distinction went to John Carr and yesterday he provided a forceful reminder of how he surpassed the West Indian. He led Middlesex into a commanding position against Hampshire with a century that made a mockery of what had gone before.

Even Mark Ramprakash, who remained unbeaten on 128 and is in such form that he must have every chance of establishing himself in the England side this summer, was overshadowed for a long time as Carr took his aggregate in his last five championship innings at Lord's to 668 at an average of 334.

Carr and Ramprakash put on 253 for the third wicket, and although they finished some way short of the county record, an undefeated 424 set by Edrich and Compton against Hampshire in 1948, there were shades of the Middlesex twins in their strokeplay — all on a pitch that claimed 16 wickets on the first day.

The effect of the soaring temperature changed the character of a surface on which Hampshire had finished 20 runs short of Middlesex's first innings 189. Presumably much of the moisture had gone, and Stephenson's figures told the tale: seven for 51 on Thursday, none for 67 yesterday.

The ball was still doing enough for Hampshire to be grateful for the 64 runs their last four wickets conjured up in the morning before Tufnell finished the innings with a spell of three for 11 in 19 balls. Middlesex were still not looking all that confident either when they lost their new openers, Gatting and Pooley, in successive overs.

They had put on 65 when Pooley was caught behind off Streak and Gatting bowled by a ball from Bovill which seemed to keep low and nip back at him, so Hampshire must have felt that they were still in business.

Everything seems to be flowering earlier this year and Carr is no exception. Last season he made 854 runs in his last seven innings, 510 of them in three innings at Lord's in which he was never dismissed. Already he seems to be back in full bloom.

While Ramprakash was content to discipline himself against the kind of carelessness that had cost him his wicket in the first innings, Carr was keen to seize the initiative, flowing from that ugly stance of his into a series of drives and pulls which took him to 50 off only 66 balls. It contained eight fours, the best of them cracked on the up through extra cover off Stephenson. He was to continue in that vein, hitting six more fours before pulling Connor into the Mound Stand to reach his century in 159 minutes off 132 balls.

Ramprakash, meanwhile, was reaping the rewards of his vigilance. Now 25, he has matured remarkably in the past 12 months and there were times when he looked almost like a right-handed Lara as he punctuated majestic driving with full-blooded pulls. One of them, a six off Stephenson, took him to 50 off 98 balls and he faced only 71 more to reach his century which contained two sixes and 15 fours.

Hampshire, their suffering increased by the fact that Udal had to leave the field with gastro-enteritis, must have been wishing that their substitute, Malcolm Marshall, could have had a bowl when Connor stuck out a hand to take a return chance from Carr.

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A springtime rural ride through the garden of England

Page 5



Win a luxury touring holiday for two around Europe

Page 7

THE TIMES Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1995

SATURDAY MAY 6 1995

The untold story of the role a handful of army officers played in the success of the world's top-selling car

VW Day: How Britain saved the Beetle

Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor, tells one of the most remarkable tales from the end of the war

JOHN RUSSELL/GUZELIAN



As Major Ivan Hirst picked his way through the rubble of bricks and mangled girders, there seemed little chance he could rescue a factory from the wreckage.

Lord Billy Rootes — who with brother Reggie had founded the British car dynasty — was more direct in his judgment. Looking around the shambles of broken machinery, he told the 29-year-old Reme officer: "If you think you're going to build cars in this place, you're a bloody fool, young man."

Rootes, though, had not counted on the determination of a small group of British Army officers. Within weeks, makeshift assembly lines had started making a small, hump-backed car known as the Beetle, and the company — Volkswagen — went on to make 22 million of them over the next 50 years.

The little-known story of Britain's part in the manufacture of the world's biggest-selling car is one of the most remarkable to emerge from the end of the war.

The Wolfsburg plant was built to turn Hitler's dream of a People's Car (*Volks-Wagen*) into reality — a small, cheap and reliable model to put the nation on Germany's huge new highways. The outbreak of war, though, stopped output before it started and assembly lines were turned over to making military vehicles.

By the surrender, Wolfsburg was in ruins, two-thirds of the factory destroyed by 821 tons of Allied bombs. The British officers posted to the plant were baffled why they were there, particularly as their commanders showed every sign of shutting down what was left. However, Colonel Michael McEvoy had seen the Volkswagen at the 1938 Berlin motor show, so he knew the assembly lines could turn out something useful.

Hirst, now 80 and the only survivor of that group of pioneering officers, realised the factory could be restarted at no cost to the Allies, and provide much-needed jobs and aid for the stricken German economy. He and McEvoy rigged up a prototype, painted it military green and showed it to Allied commanders. The result was a four-year reprieve for the factory and an order for 20,000 cars.

They had orders but a factory with no materials or workers. They scoured the country for sheet steel while Hirst replaced Russian prisoners-of-war, used as forced labour at the plant, with German POWs returning from Britain. They worked day and night to turn a bomb site into something resembling a factory that could meet the ambitious target to make 1,000 cars a month by the spring of 1946.

Even then, the little car designed by Ferdinand Porsche — later founder of the famous sports car company — was exerting its magic. Charles Radclyffe, an officer at military headquarters, told Hirst: "We've got another Model T on our hands here."

Britain's carmakers were less impressed. Engineers at Humber looked over the Beetle and decided it was a dud, too flimsy compared with solid British bodies.

They changed their tune when Volkswagen was given the go-ahead to export in 1947, so the German economy could earn hard currency.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders protested to the Government, but it was too late. As the Iron Curtain dropped, Wolfsburg was in a West Germany that had become a new ally against the Soviet Union.

By 1949, 2,500 Beetles rolled off Wolfsburg's assembly lines every month and a new, independent management, headed by Heinz Nordoff, was in place. Major Hirst, of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, had done his job and was posted home to a Britain still waking up from war.

A 200-mile-a-month limit on motoring had been lifted as petrol became available. Britain's car factories were working flat out but could still not keep up with the pent-up demand, obliging the Government to impose a law forcing motorists who bought a new car to keep it for at least six months, to prevent them exploiting a thriving black market. You could, though, buy a new Beetle, with its curious rear engine and frog-eye headlamps, thanks to the ingenuity of those British officers.

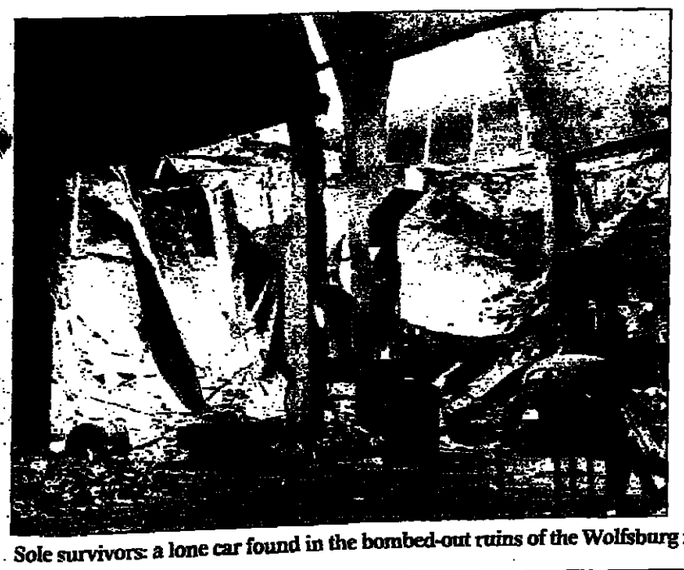
Hirst, who now lives in North Yorkshire, has followed the fortunes of Volkswagen, and attended the company's Golden Jubilee in 1986, where he pricked the bubble of pomp and circumstance surrounding the ceremony by announcing that he had driven a BMW for years.

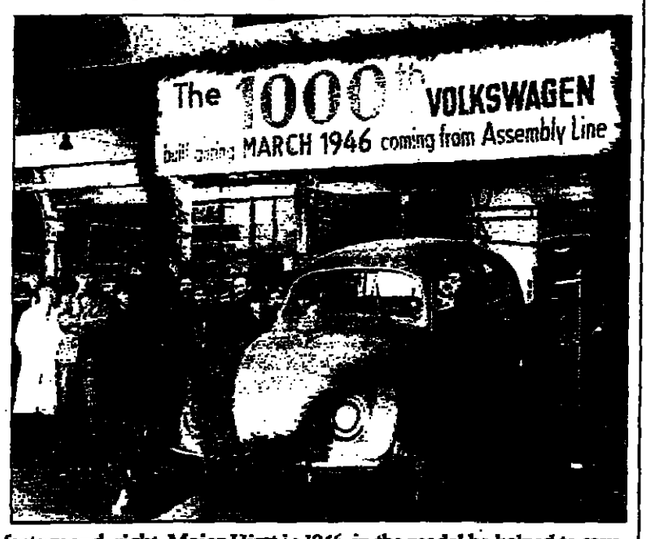
"It was just a job for us," he says. "We had no idea that the Beetle would be so successful in those early days. We saw it had the makings of a good car but there were design bugs we had to iron out."

The ironing was perfect for, although the Beetle isn't made in Europe any longer, it remains a cult car. It is the best-selling model in Mexico, and is still manufactured there and in Brazil half a century after Hirst and his small group of fellow officers pressed the button to crank up the Wolfsburg assembly lines for the first time.

Hirst, responsible for starting one of the world's biggest companies, got no financial reward for his pioneering effort — although he was offered a Golf GTi as a gift by grateful VW executives. Typically, he refused the offer, and instead paid the discount price offered to VW workers — a thoroughly British compromise that pleased both sides, and an act that recognised Hirst's role as one of the men who turned the desolation of war into a motoring legend.

A model of global success: Ivan Hirst with a miniature version of the car which, half a century ago, he and a group of fellow officers helped to put on the road to becoming the world's top-selling vehicle





Sole survivors: a lone car found in the bombed-out ruins of the Wolfsburg factory and, right, Major Hirst in 1946, in the model he helped to save

INSIDE

Ferrari fervour

Like owning a Picasso or listening to Mozart, driving a Ferrari is not an activity, it is an act of passion, reports Kevin Eason after trying the new F355 Spyder. It is one of the most road-friendly cars to emerge from the Italian Maranello factory. Unfortunately, it is also a car worth stealing, as both Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi found out when their cars disappeared after last weekend's San Marino Grand Prix Page 12

Racing now

John Cleland, former British Touring Car Champion, tells how he took his first alarming drive at the age of eight — in reverse. This weekend he will be trying to improve on his current third place in the championship at the race meeting at Thruxton Steering Column, Page 10

Jaguar jubilee

The "big cat" from Coventry celebrates its 60th anniversary this weekend, when 80 Jaguars go on display at the Classic and Sports Car Show in Birmingham. In our series of historic British cars, Lord Montagu looks at the XK120, "one of the most beautiful sports cars ever designed." John Lawson's cutaway drawing shows the features that helped the marque dominate sports car racing for more than a decade page 3

Racing then

Another weekend celebration, in the unlikely setting of Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, will mark the 93rd anniversary of the first international motor race held on British soil. It proved, said one report, that the car was here to stay. The winner was a steam-powered beast from France page 12

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The VE-Day ballyhoo offers a chance to pause and re-examine another war – that between cars and pedestrians

Cut the limit to stop giving people the hump

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

The VE-Day commemoration and the early life of rock guitarist Dave Stewart, who formed Eurythmics with Annie Lennox, do not at first sight offer much inspiration for a column about motoring, but there are many weird and wonderful routes from A to B.

This week there has been a BBC film about Stewart and, of course, *our screens have been filled with* newsreel from 50 years ago.

It happens that Stewart, the peace that broke out in May 1945 and myself are of roughly the same vintage. The film made by Stewart's father of his son kicking a football around in a Sunderland street, and the film of VE street parties, have in common something that nobody under about 40 would consider significant: there is an almost complete absence of cars.

Stewart (and I) were able to run about in the streets where we lived with impunity. Today, every residential street in the land has cars parked nose to tail on both sides, posing a lethal hazard to children and anybody else trying to cross the road.

Yet along the carless vistas of 1945 the speed limit, brought in under the 1930 Road Traffic Act, was 30mph on all roads, amended in the 1934 Act to apply to built-up areas only. Since then, there has been legislation in 1956 and 1965 which adjusted, upwards, non-urban limits for trunk roads, dual carriageways and motorways.

The urban limit of 30mph has remained throughout the 61 years since 1934 in which the car has shifted from being an indulgence for the rich to a necessity for all. There is no other type of road on which the hazards have increased without the speed limit being reduced.

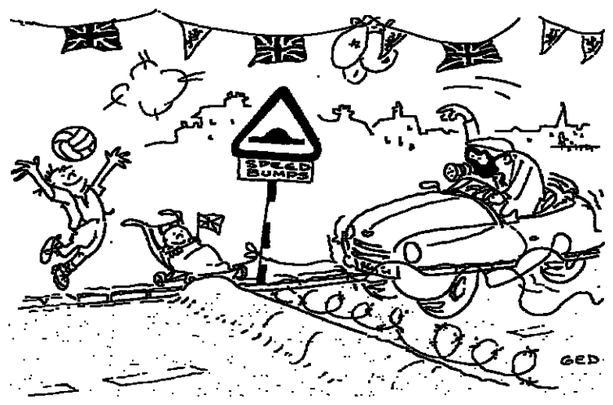
I am not generally in favour of speed limits unless they can be enforced but I think the present controversy about speed humps, especially among drivers of emergency service vehicles, could have been avoided or at least delayed if the introduction if these infuriating humps had been preceded by a reduction in the built-up area speed limit to 20mph.

This has been done on roads near schools, to considerable effect, and if the limit works near schools it would surely have a chance of working near homes. A bus driver was reported the other day as saying that he went over 100 humps during a four-hour shift, demonstrating that the hump has become the favourite, if not the only, quick fix among traffic managers.

There are still many more residential streets without humps than with them, raising the possibility of a sudden rush of blood among drivers spotting a flat path ahead, thus increasing the danger to pedestrians.

We need to re-examine the hump philosophy, and what better way to test it than by reducing the 30mph limit on roads scheduled to have humps in the near future, so that a direct comparison can be made.

Another thing drivers lacked in 1945 was flashing indicators. Then most cars had a little lever that stuck out sideways from the door pillar to indicate changes of direction but these were often invisible to following cars.



My father had to make various semaphore signals out of the window, his arm often looking after as if it had been through a washing machine sans the drier programme.

Now it's easy. So why do so many drivers not indicate? I have seen one accident in the past month caused directly by this idleness but it did not involve the car that turned left, right, right and left again in front of me without once using the indicator.

I was sorely tempted to get alongside and give him a piece of my mind, but you never know what might happen when you start remonstrating with a chap in a blue uniform driving a police car.

THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

Tens of thousands of motorists will take to the roads this weekend for the May Bank Holiday break. In addition to VE-Day celebrations (main ones included below), many rallies and sports events could mean hold-ups across the country. Routes to the coast and to theme parks will also be busy.

● **LONDON**

More than a million people are expected at events in the capital over the weekend, centred on Hyde Park, Marble Arch and Oxford Street.

Tomorrow, a service of celebration at St Paul's Cathedral at 11am will mean various road closures in the city, some from 6am. At 3pm, the Royal Family will attend events in Hyde Park. Various roads will be closed, including Park Lane both ways.

On Monday, Oxford Street will be closed between Portman St and New Bond St from 9am-3pm, for the Red Cross Birthday Celebrations. The Mall, Horseguards Road, Birdcage Walk and Constitution Hill will be closed for a display at Buckingham Palace at midday.

The VE Party starts in Hyde Park at 8pm and road closures are expected in the area 9.30-10.30pm.

● **SOUTHEAST**

In **Berkshire**, a march through **Newbury** tomorrow will mean various road closures from 4.30pm-6pm. On Monday, the High St in **Slough** and both Denmark St and Market Place in **Wokingham** will be closed all day for VE-Day events.

In **Oxfordshire**, there will be a big all-day event at Blenheim Palace on Monday. The High St and Market St in **Woodstock** will be closed with heavy congestion expected on the A44 and A4095. The May Fair in **Wantage** will close off roads in the town centre until 8am tomorrow.

In **Essex**, a march in **Colchester** today will mean town centre road closures from 9.30am.

In **Hampshire**, the **Portsmouth** Lord Mayor's Show today combined with VE-Day celebrations includes a procession from noon.

● **SOUTHWEST**

In **Devon**, The Hoe in **Plymouth** will be closed between Pier St and Madeira St from tomorrow until Tuesday for VE-Day celebrations. The Great West Run takes place around **Exeter** city centre tomorrow and many roads will be closed between 9am and 3pm.

In **Dorset**, the Esplanade in **Weymouth** will be closed all day tomorrow for a street party.

In **Cornwall**, there will be road closures in Penzance town centre on Monday because of a street party.

MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

In **Cambridgeshire**, a VE-Day event at Duxford Imperial War Museum on Monday will affect traffic on the **M11** and the **A10**.

In **Suffolk**, the Guineas race meeting at Newmarket will delay traffic on the **A14, A11 and A1303**, especially today and tomorrow.

In **Leicestershire**, the county show tomorrow and Monday will mean extra traffic on the **A6** between Hathern and Loughborough.

In the **West Midlands**, Edgbaston in **Birmingham** will be busy tomorrow around midday because of a VE-Day parade and cricket at Warwickshire CCC.

● **NORTH**

In **Cheshire**, Knutsford town centre will be closed off today 1pm-4pm for the annual Royal May Day procession. VE-Day celebrations will add to delays.

In **Cumbria**, the National Trust May Day celebrations at Fell Foot Country Park on Monday are expected to cause delays on the **A592** near Newby Bridge.

In **North Yorkshire**, an exhibition is taking place at the Great Yorkshire Showground in **Harrogate** until Sunday.

In **Leeds** on Monday, a VE-Day march sets off at 1.15pm from Mill Street to the parish church.

On **Merseyside**, VE-Day celebrations in Kirby on Monday will affect The Promenade, Gynn Square and Starr Gate.

In **Greater Manchester**, VE-Day events in the **Stockport** area on Monday will affect several roads.

● **WALES**

In **Gwent**, there are VE-Day celebrations on Monday in **Newport** at Tredegar House and Country Park. Delays from 11am.

In **South Glamorgan**, Prince Charles will attend a VE-Day service at Llandaff Cathedral in **Cardiff** at 11am on Monday.

Holiday highway robbery

Walter Ellis, once bitten, tells how to avoid the kind of Bank Holiday that can lead to bankruptcy

It had looked odd even from a distance, but close up, it was a sorry sight. *Both rear wheels had* been removed from my faithful little Orion and it was squatting on its axle, without even bricks to protect its dignity.

There we stood, the girlfriend and I, with our suitcases, suddenly bereft. It was a Bank Holiday — so beware if misfortune befalls your car this weekend.

I phoned the RAC. The control centre said the roads were littered with broken vehicles and it would be at least an hour before anybody could get to us.

An hour-and-a-half later a cheerful tow-truck driver appeared and said I had done the right thing to call the RAC. Otherwise, he said, it could cost an arm and a leg for it to be taken to the garage for repairs.

He fitted makeshift wheels, winched the car aboard and handed me a card with the phone number of his employers before driving off.

I phoned the garage several times, but not until 6pm — eight-and-a-half hours after my original call to the RAC — did I get any firm information. By then the job was done and the car awaited collection.

"How much do I owe you?" I asked, brandishing my credit card. "Five hundred and *eighty six pounds*", said the man behind the desk. "And we don't take credit cards."

I was incredulous. My car was six years old and only worth about £2,000. By this reckoning, the wheels alone made up half the value.

"But how can that be?"

"Alloy wheels. £112 each. Very expensive items. Then the tyres, the labour and the new wheel nuts. All adds up, I'm afraid. Plus the tow, of course. And VAT."

"The tow? How much was that?"

"£60. I'm afraid."

"But doesn't the RAC pay?"

"'Fraid not. Private job, you see. All they did was call us and asked us if we could handle it."

'Replacing two stolen wheels? That'll be £586. And sorry, we don't take credit cards'

You could have knocked me down with a dipstick. I felt as though two crimes had been committed against me that day, and the theft of my wheels wasn't necessarily the hardest to take. But what could I do? I paid by cheque and drove off, stunned.

Next day, back in London, I called the RAC for an explanation. The man from the legal help line said there was nothing to be done. Garages like this could charge what they liked. But it was the RAC which had called them in the first place, I said. And what about the sign on the garage doors? "Approved garage". And what about all the other RAC jobs being done there the same day? The manager's desk was swamped in invoices from the New Knights of the Road. Too bad, was the gist of his message. It was the luck of the draw.

In fact, once I had taken the matter further — through the RAC press office — something was done. My £60 tow charge was refunded and I was given an apology for the garage's failure to keep me informed.

I still wanted an explanation, though. It ran like this: the garage was not an "approved" garage at all, but merely a contractor, employed when other facilities were unavailable.

Had I used one of the RAC's 990 registered garages, offering "selected", "selected plus" or "elite" services, I would have been assured of a written estimate, customer-friendly reception facilities and close liaison, if necessary, with the RAC.

"Selected" garages have a bodyshop and approved, standardised equipment, and staff are fully-trained: "selected plus" garages guarantee the quality of their repairs and servicing: and "elite" garages provide showrooms of a recognised standard and deal only in vehicles open to inspection by RAC engineers.

I am happy to pass on this advice. But I still wonder how it is that the RAC can regularly use a garage of which it does not necessarily approve and over which it has no control. At the very least, if the organisation is going to derogate from best practice due to pressure of business, it should say so in advance. Forewarned is forearmed.

So what about the opposition? The AA operates its own "appointed" and "approved" schemes. It has 1,500 appointed garages up and down the country, offering high-grade repairs and servicing, each of which is expected to provide comfortable reception facilities and written estimates for work. "Approved" garages are mainly larger, quick replacement facilities, such as Kwikfit and Autoglass, with advertised prices and a guaranteed quality of service.

Mike Vening, head of garage appointments at the AA, says garages which do not measure up to its standards are "first warned, then scratched from the list. "We give only one-year, renewable approvals," he adds, "and these can be withdrawn at any time."

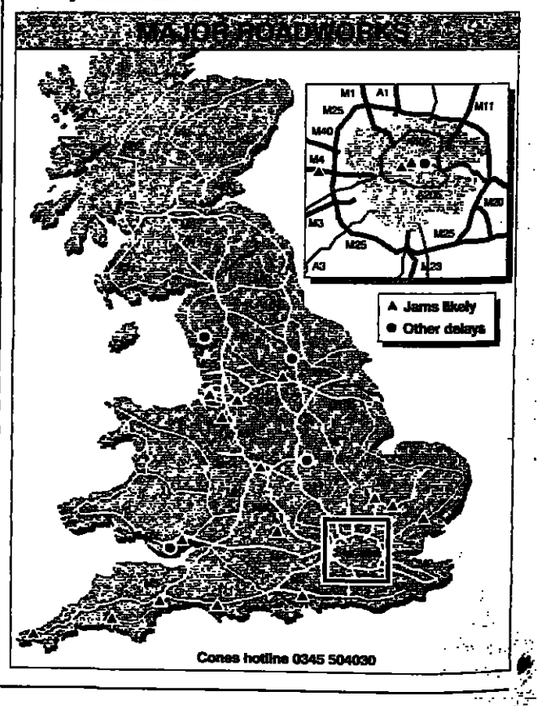
Both motoring organisations pursue excellence, and most of the time they provide first-class value for money. Be warned, though. Next time you call the RAC or the AA, make sure what they are offering you is the best service available, and not just the nearest to hand, no matter how busy they are. Get an estimate, agree a price, and, if you are not satisfied, phone the organisation responsible. As American Express used to say, membership has its privileges.

NEWSTEAM



Back on the road: but two new wheels cost Walter Ellis a quarter of his car's value

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للاستزادة من الأصل

'The Jaguar XK120 is one of the most beautiful sports cars ever designed and an all-time classic'

The big cat that roared to victory

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu continues his series on a dozen cars that made Britain great

Few makes of car have been so much the work of one man as Jaguar. Long before the name was coined, William Lyons was making his mark with stylish bodies on other people's chassis. Born in Blackpool in 1901, Lyons started in business at the age of 20, making motorcycle sidecars with his friend William Walmsley.

They called their firm the Swallow Sidecar Company and, in 1927, added coachwork to their activities. In 1928 they moved to Coventry, to be closer to the motor industry. The chassis they built on included Austin Seven, Standard, Fiat and Swift.

In 1931, Lyons designed a more individual car, which he called the SS1. This still used a Standard Sixteen engine but it was installed in an underslung frame and clothed with a rakish coupé body, which led one newspaper to call it "a £1,000 dream car for £310".

Lyons had shown his inimitable flair for combining stylish looks with outstanding value; performance would come later. The 1935 London Motor Show saw his first four-door saloon, the first car to bear the name Jaguar. The engine was still a Standard, but modified by his chief engineer Harry Weslake.

The body matched the Bentley or Lagonda for elegance, but the price was a modest £385. It was known as the SS Jaguar, and by the outbreak of war nearly 14,400 had been made with three engine sizes.

It was not until after the war that Lyons changed the name of his company. The letters SS had acquired an unacceptable association with the Nazis, and in March 1945, Jaguar Cars Ltd was born.

Another important decision was to move engine building from the Standard factory to Jaguar's own. This gave it the freedom to develop a new engine.

As before, Weslake was in charge of cylinder head design, but the new engine was much more ambitious than that in the SS Jaguar. It had hemispherical combustion chambers and twin overhead camshafts, a layout previously found mostly in highly expensive sports cars.

As well as the advanced head, it had a massively strong steel crankshaft. Lyons intended the engine for a luxury saloon to replace the pre-war designs, but before launching into large-scale manufacture he wanted to test the engine. Two sizes were built, the four-cylinder 2-litre XK100 and the six-cylinder 3.5-litre XK120. The former never went into production. The six was shown at London's first post-war motor show, at Earls Court in October 1948.

The 160bhp engine was impressive enough on its own, but the chassis was clothed in a striking two-seater body quite unlike anything seen from Jaguar before. The wing line flowed into the doors, the narrow radiator grille was flanked by twin bumpers which did not meet in the middle, and the rear wheels were enclosed by spats, which added to the car's elegance.

As always, Lyons quoted a modest price for his new sports car — £1,263, including Purchase Tax. This was less than half the cost of a 2-litre Ferrari 166, which was a less tractable car. Before the XK120 went into production, Lyons envisaged a limited run of 200 cars, simply to test the engine before putting it into his saloon. However, demand was so great that production continued until 1954, by which time 12,078 had been made. The first 200 cars had aluminium bodies, the rest steel.

Most went for export, particularly to America, where they were sold by the ebullient German-born Max Hoffmann. He claimed to have taken 80 orders on the evidence of the catalogue alone. No cars were delivered until July 1949, and the first was not released to the home market until March 1950. In fact, of the 7,713 XK120s made between 1950 and 1953, only 571, or 8 per cent, were sold in the UK.

The name XK120 implied a top speed of 120mph, and for once this was no exaggeration. The example tested by *The Motor* reached 123.5mph, and another achieved a flying mile at 132.596mph. The same car was then driven past spectators at 10mph in top gear.

The XK's first competition success was a 1-2 victory in the 1949 Production Car Race at Silverstone. The following year, 21-year-old Stirling Moss won the Tourist Trophy race, and Ian Appleyard took a *Coupe des Alpes* and made best individual performance in the International Alpine Rally.

Two more *Coupes des Alpes* in 1951 and 1952 earned Appleyard the first ever Alpine Gold Cup. From 1951 he was partnered by his wife Patricia, Lyons's daughter, and his car, NUB 120, was displayed at the National Motor Museum for many years.

The competition version, known at first as the XK120C, but generally as the C-type, made its debut in 1951. This had a spaceframe chassis and an engine tuned to give 204bhp. This naturally took the lead in competition, winning at Le Mans in 1951 and 1953 among many other successes, so the XK120 was no longer seen in big races. However, it continued to compete in rallies and club racing on both sides of the Atlantic, until the late 1950s.

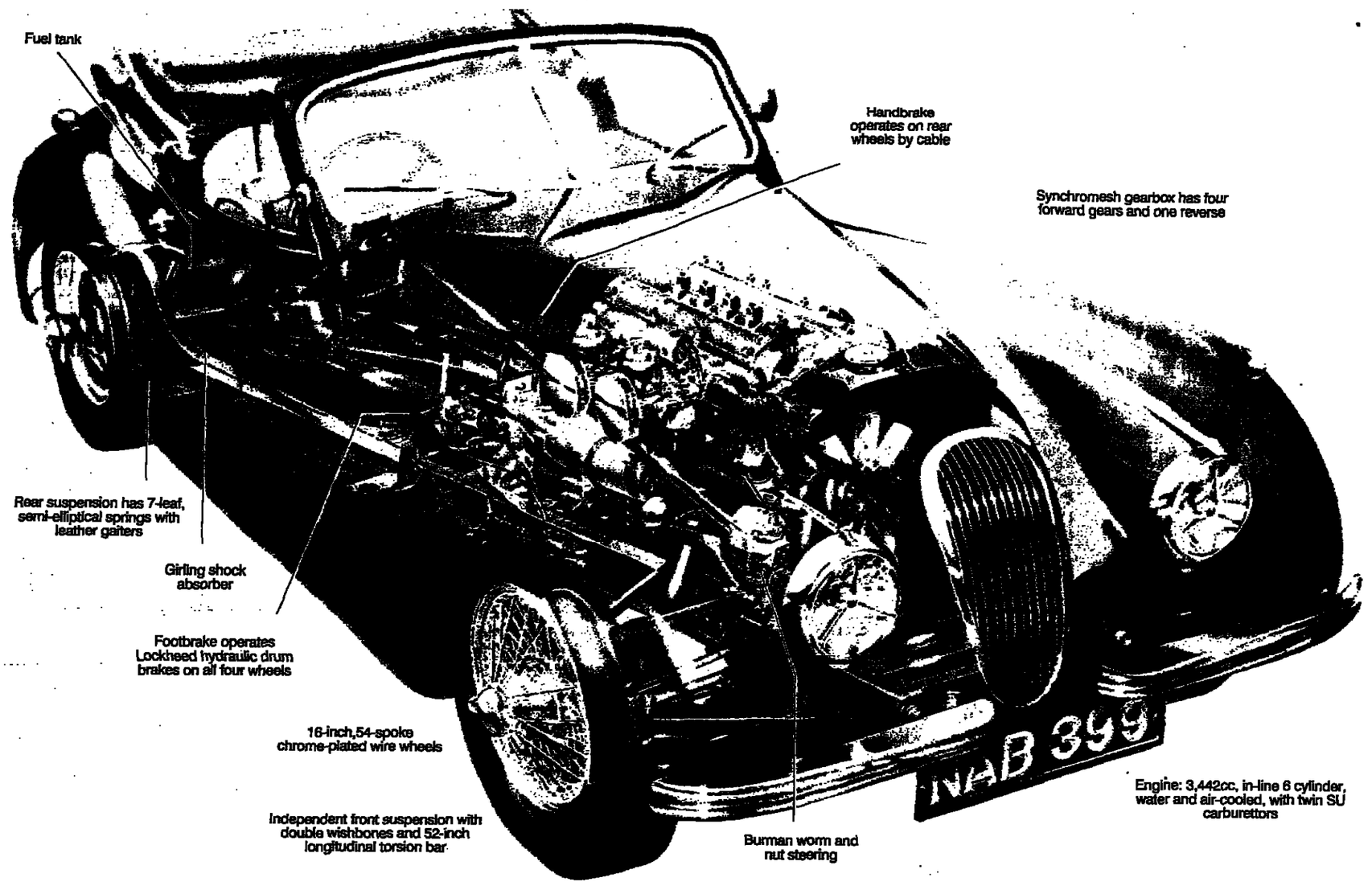
The original two-seater roadster was joined by a fixed-head coupé in 1951 and a drop-head coupé in 1953. The next XK, the 140, arrived in 1955, followed two years later by the XK150, which kept the line going until the arrival of the E-type in 1961. Though totally new in appearance, this used an enlarged version of the XK engine, as did the saloons, Marks VII through to X, and the later XJ6 made up to 1986.

The last car to use the XK engine was the Daimler Vanden Plas limousine, made until 1992, while the unit was also used in Dennis ambulances, Daimler armoured cars and racing hydroplanes.

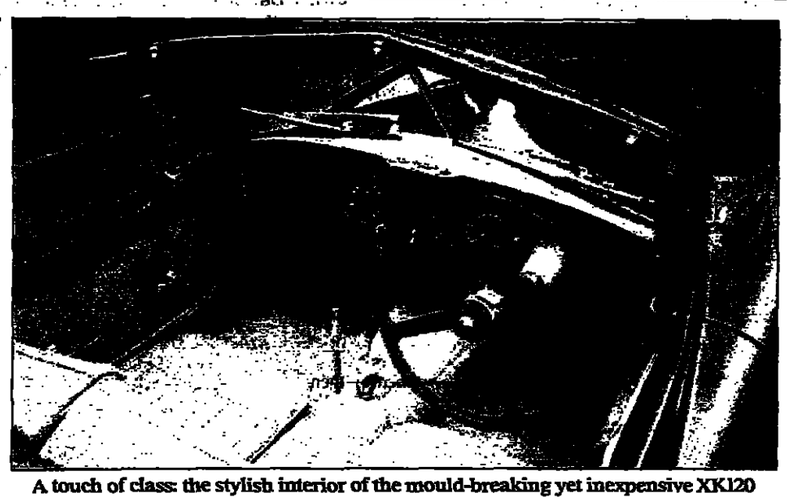
Despite the better performance and superior brakes of the later XKs and E-type, the original XK120 cannot be beaten for style and remains a highly sought after collector's car. Expect to pay £50-60,000 for a good example today.

To me, this masterpiece by Lyons is one of the most beautiful sports cars ever designed; it must surely go down as the classic of all time and an everlasting credit to the British motor industry.

Cut-away illustration by JOHN LAWSON



Car supplied by Steve Carpenter, information supplied by Grant Lamnon and Classic Coachbuilders

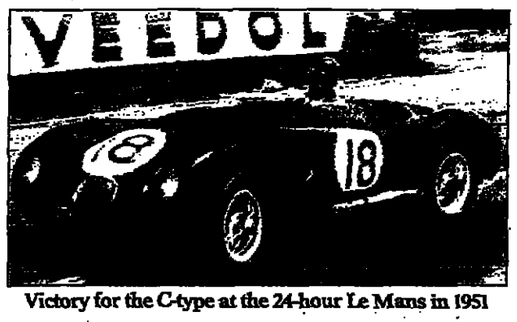


A touch of class: the stylish interior of the mould-breaking yet inexpensive XK120

Six racy decades of the sleek streetcar named desire



The last Swallow: the 1930s SS100, soon to be a Jaguar



Victory for the C-type at the 24-hour Le Mans in 1951



Bestseller: the MkII was a 1960s B-movie favourite

If you want to be a purist about it, this weekend's celebration of Jaguar's Diamond Jubilee is four months early, for it was not until September 1935 that William Lyons decided to swap Swallows for Jaguars (Kevin Eason writes).

That is unlikely to dim enthusiasm for the 80 glorious cars, from Lyons's earliest SS Jaguar saloon up to the sleek XJ220 — the first production car to break the 200mph barrier — which go on show this weekend at the *Top Gear* Classic and Sportscar Show at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. One hall of the NEC will be devoted entirely to the road and race cars which captured the public imagination, all of which bore Lyons's unmistakable stamp. They were always sleek, always powerful . . . and always desirable.



The definitive Jaguar sports car, the 150mph E-type



Soon to give way to a new model, the 20-year-old XJS

The Jaguar legend was born on the racetracks: it was the first marque to win both the Le Mans 24-hour endurance race and the Monte Carlo Rally in the same year. There were five Le Mans victories in the 1950s and road cars that still make enthusiasts drool.

Lyons always made value-for-money cars. Though luxurious, they were never overpriced. Then there were models such as the E-type, a definitive British sports car which looks as glamorous today as at its launch more than three decades ago, and which inspired Ferrari to build the 250 GTO.

Lyons — by then Sir William — retired in 1969, and Jaguar became part of the huge British Leyland conglomerate, later BL. By the end of the 1970s, BL was state-owned, loss-making and being carved up by Sir Michael Edwardes. His cuts saw the end of Morris and Triumph — and Jaguar was close to bankruptcy.

Edwardes recruited John Egan, who had to dodge a picket line outside the Browns Lane factory in Coventry on his first day as Jaguar's chairman. Egan transformed the business, the cars becoming more reliable and Jaguars taking to the racetrack again with a series of stunning victories at Le Mans in the 1980s.

Egan was also a great salesman, and the sales figures grew year by year. His reward was the privatisation of Jaguar in 1984, a showpiece of the Thatcher revitalisation programme and an act Sir William witnessed before his death a year later.

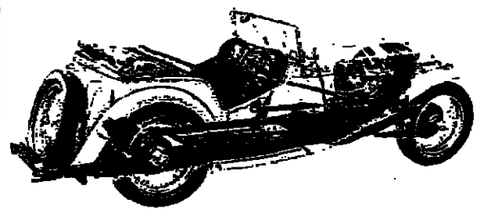
However, the soaring sales masked Jaguar's lack of financial muscle in a world of multinationals. Egan, now Sir John, sold Jaguar to Ford for £1.5 billion, only five years after it was privatised for just £300 million.

Today, after a tricky patch during the recession, Jaguar is booming again. Sales are up and production could bounce back to 40,000 this year. The cars are graceful and sleek again, like the new XJ6 saloons voted the world's most beautiful car.

Yet even Sir William would not have visualised what comes next. Jaguar is to build a new smaller car, probably in Britain, and at a rate of 100,000 a year, putting these Small Cats within reach of buyers on budget prices, much like the Jaguars of the past. Lyons would have roared approval.

THE TIMES

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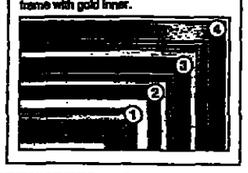
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Vauxhall recalls Omegas for fuel checks

Vauxhall has recalled 12,607 *Omega models* after a potential fault was spotted in the fuel hose. Owners of the executive cars made from February last year have been told to go to dealers where a 45-minute rectification will be carried out free.

Mazda move

Jan Smith, Mazda's controversial marketing director, has moved to the RAC. Ms Smith won awards but baffled *some dealers with the* company's oddball television ads, some of which were silent and had to be videotaped to be understood.

Little winner

The little Renault 5, now made in Slovenia, goes from strength to strength with *sales last year up 63 per cent.* The 5 should have been a victim of the Clio's success but the hatchback has won new *territory* as a "bargain basement" model.

Cheaper Ford

Ford has lopped almost £2,000 from the price of its *high-performance Escort* RS2000. The base model now costs £13,995 and the 130mph four-wheel-drive version is £15,295.

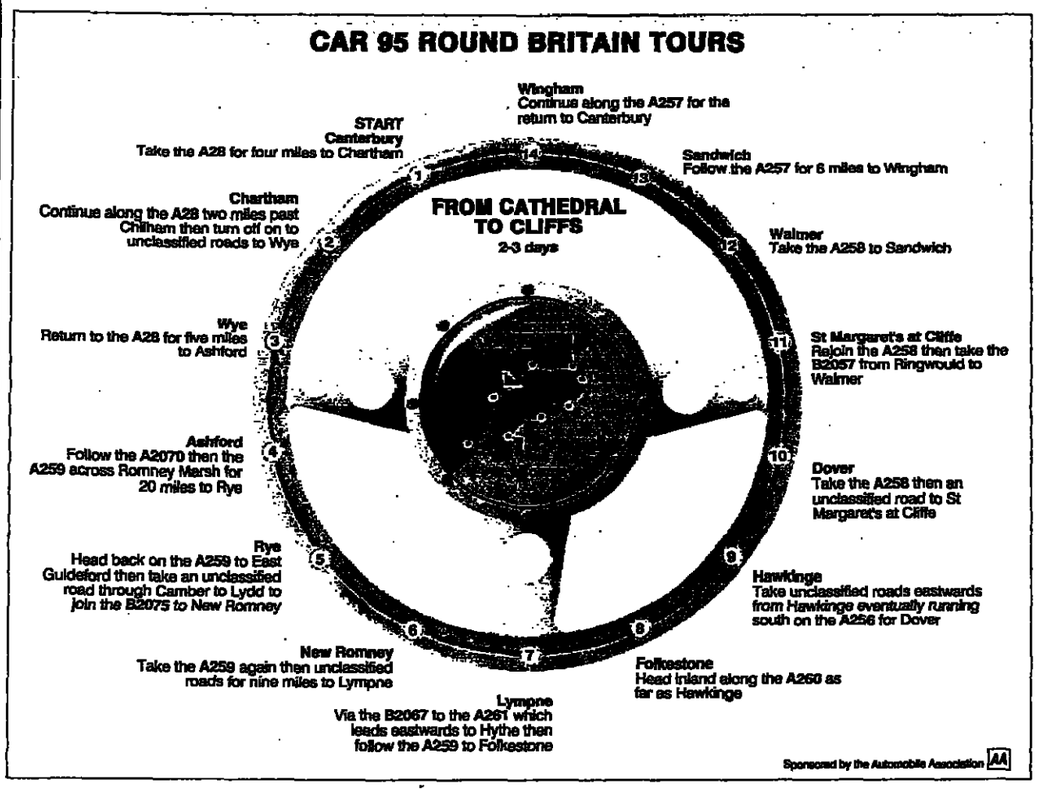
No jokes please

A swear box will be the centrepiece of the show when East European cars have *their day of fame at* Brooklands tomorrow. Jokes about Skodas, Ladas and Yugos are banned.

Hijet launch

Daihatsu is launching the Hijet, 10 ft long with six seats, next month at £8,000.

***Alan Copps** continues our weekly touring guides with a route through the Garden of England*



Sponsored by the Automobile Association AA



Canterbury: starting point



Rye: rich in history

Perfect time for the darling buds of May

Kent is often called the "garden of England" but the original term was probably "Guardian of England", because of its key position across the narrowest straits of the Channel. This *tour provides ample evidence* to support both theories.

The northern stretch, especially at this season, has rich orchards and hop fields, while the coastal stretches echo to the sounds of history: appropriately, Dover Castle is the setting for English Heritage's main VE-Day commemoration on Monday.

The drive starts in Canterbury, where the cathedral dominates narrow streets, mainly pedestrianised, which contain many fine old buildings and a plethora of antique shops. The city has many *other sights, including a pre*historic tumulus and a Roman mosaic museum. There are also two excellent exhibitions which help explain its history, The Canterbury Tales, which brings Chaucer's characters entertainingly to life, and Canterbury Heritage, housed in the medieval Poor Priests' Hospital.

The road to Chartham runs *through Chilham, where the* village square is set at the gateway to the castle built for Henry II in 1174. It is privately owned but its gardens are open to visitors. Further on, Wye houses the Agriculture School of London University.

Ashford, the old market centre for Romney Marsh and the Weald, is one of the fastest growing towns in the area but it retains a number of interesting buildings. Godington House, northwest of the town, contains rooms of Chippendale and Sheraton furniture.

The road now runs across Romney Marsh to Rye, in East *Sussex, a Cinque Port and one* of the prettiest and most atmospheric towns, rich in literary associations. Both Henry James and E.F. Benson lived at Lamb House.

Back across the marsh, the road leads to New Romney, from which the tiny Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway runs. Romney is another of the Cinque Ports, trading and fishing centres granted a charter by Edward I for their part in defending the coast.

At Lympne, the castle stands on a clifftop that was once the coastline. Just outside the town is the Port Lympne Zoo Park, 300 acres housing a host of rare animals, and including the mansion where the Treaty of Paris was signed after the First World War. Nearby Hythe has a good beach.

From here the route passes through the major Channel ports. Folkestone, with its new-found importance as English terminal of the Channel Tunnel — the Eurotunnel Exhibition Centre is well worth a visit — and Dover, with its white cliffs and splendid castle from which France is easily visible on a clear day. Within the walls are a Roman lighthouse and a beatifully restored Saxon Church. Between the two ports lies Hawkinge, with its Battle of Britain Museum.

East of Dover lies St Margaret's at Cliffe, where massive chalk cliffs loom over the Pines Garden created in the 1970s, and the ports of Walmer, Deal and Sandwich. The first two both have handsome castles built by Henry VIII. Sandwich, now two miles from the sea, has a splendid windmill and folk museum.

The route back to Canterbury runs through more rich orchards and farmland.

Treasures of Britain, page 39

DR DASHBOARD

Safe way to eat on long jaunts

Q We are attempting a long journey for the Bank Holiday but my husband refuses to stop for meals. He just wants to snack on the way — yet it is so messy. What can I do?

A I visualise the scene: pieces of sandwich squashed into seats, crisps pressed into every groove of the upholstery, sticky cola turning the steering wheel into flypaper. Ugh! Have you thought of divorce?

Q Two hours into every journey, usually when the children are screaming to stop and everybody is getting fractious.

A That is exactly why you *should stop.* Once everyone in the car is tired, stress levels rise and accidents happen. Two hours is the maximum without a stop. Still, I am not surprised your husband is a steering wheel gourmet.

Q Why do your say that? I think it bizarre anyone would want to eat and drive.

A Not these days. In America, one in six of all restaurant and convenience meals are eaten in the car. In this country, about half of all the sandwiches bought are taken straight to the car for consumption. Apparently, company car *drivers now believe they are* more efficient if they eat on the move, which is one of the reasons why drive-through services are growing more popular.

Q Surely, eating a hamburger and chips on the move is not possible.

A Possible, if somewhat messy. In America, McDonald's and Burger King are among companies that have given great thought to selling food in easier-to-get-at-wrappers and cartons. Carmakers have also been quick to jump on the bandwagon, providing cupholders and areas where food could be stored. I should warn you though: there are drawbacks.

Q Such as?

A *In the USA,* up to 7 per cent of road accidents in 1992 were caused by "inattentive behaviour", including eatin g at the wheel.

Q That proves my point. What else could I get him to eat instead of burgers to keep him happy?

A The important thing is to stay away from fatty foods or carbohydrates which do not offer any extra *energy. Go instead for fruit,* which gives a boost.

Q What about drinks? Are *some better than* others?

A Boxed cartons are specially designed to spurt when you stick in the straw, so be careful, especially with blackcurrant, which can stain nice clean frocks on messy little children. Cans are less risky but stay away from sugary things which are sticky and can take a lot of cleaning up if they spill.

Q The answer surely is not to eat in the car at all, but to stop. But how can I get my husband to understand my point?

A You probably won't. You could be devious and copy the woman in America who bought hot coffee from McDonald's which she spilled into her lap, then sued successfully *for $480,000 for her suffer*ing. In the absence of a National Lottery win, try that, take the money and buy your own car.

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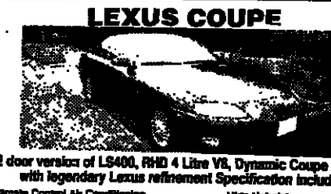
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TIMES ROAD TESTS: **Kevin Eason** on a Rover with bite; **Helen Mound** on a Skoda to take seriously

Old losers turn natural born winners



Better by design: the Birmingham-built Rover 400, possibly the most attractive car in its class, offers excellent ride quality and performance

In the pastRover executives would have been watching over their shoulders for the flash of knives when they launched a new car. Too many still carry the scars from the years when the old British Leyland used to send a new model into the marketplace more in hope than confidence.

What a change, then, to see chairman John Towers and his team positively beaming as drivers bustled past to get a look at the company's latest offering. The days of "make-or-break" models have gone; the Rover 400 will be a "make-and-make" car for the company.

The 400 was launched this week into the most competitive sector of the market, the upper medium segment which accounts for sales of 400,000 new cars annually, close to a quarter of all registrations. The sector is packed with the biggest players, from the British-built Ford Escort, Vauxhall Astra, Peugeot 306 and Honda Civic, to foreign competition from the Citroën ZX, Volkswagen's Golf and even BMW's new £13,500 "baby", the Compact.

That means the 400 has to be good if it is to stand a chance. And it is good. Very good indeed.

In fact, the Rover 400 is a revelation. The car is good looking, possibly the most attractive in its class, while the interiors are the usual combination of plush fittings and lots of veneer. However, we almost expect that from a Rover design department which sends out models to catch the eye with increasing regularity.

The revelation is in the ride and performance which, for once, surpasses the car's twin made by Honda. The 400 is the last model to be designed in collaboration with Honda, the Japanese company producing the Civic at Swindon, Wiltshire, while the Rover comes from Longbridge in Birmingham.

The cars could hardly be more dissimilar. Where the Honda engines are high-revving and "buzzy", Rover's K-series power packs feel more relaxed yet more powerful. Where the Honda, and just about every other car in this class, bounces and jolts over potholes and ridges, the Rover 400 smooths out bumps better than the heavy roller at Lord's.

The ride and handling package has been designed using techniques developed by the National Aeronatics and Space Administration (Nasa) in America to measure refinement and comfort, so no unpleasant shake, rattle and roll transforms the passenger cabin into a quivering tin box. It clearly works for I could detect none of the appalling jerkiness that so often haunts a car of this size.

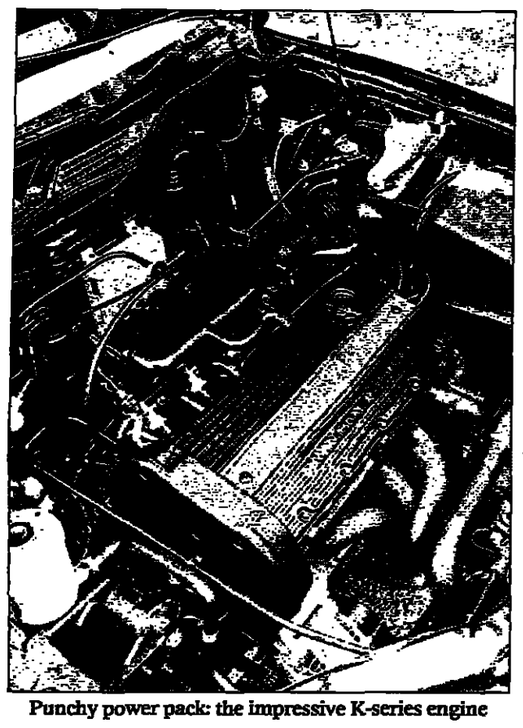
Instead, the 400 stayed unerringly on line, with even huge potholes swallowed and digested as though they were not there.

Added to that important virtue, the Rover's all-round competence is extremely impressive. I hurried both the 1.4 and 1.6-litre versions around country lanes and found plenty of acceleration in both cars and confidence as the short nose turned into bends. This was a car zipping along like some of its bigger sisters but without effort, raucousness or the sheer discomfort so many small cars offer.

As the only car in the range which comes with a Honda engine and transmission, the only version I did not like was the 1.6-litre automatic. The contrast between the deeper, throatier Longbridge engines and the Honda's whizzing 1.6 was startling and I preferred the British-designed power pack.

When the car is spinning nicely you can appreciate the little touches, such as the three-spoke steering wheel, clear dashboard dials and all-round vision through deep windows, which is excellent. The 400's interior is as roomy and welcoming as anything on the market, big or small.

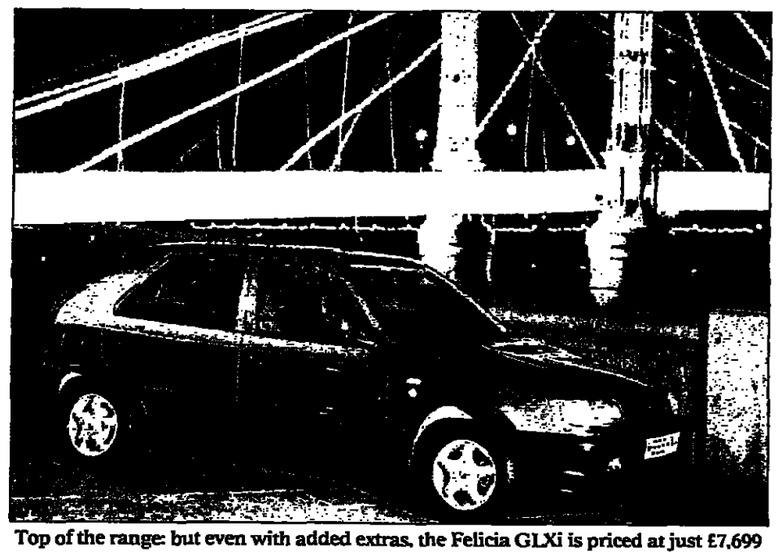
John Russell, Rover's managing director, says the 400 carries on the line of design and performance established by its bigger sister, the 600, but will help make a breakthrough into a pool of younger buyers wanting performance allied to luxury. If he is right, Rover is geared up to making 200,000 of the 400 series annually.



Punchy power pack: the impressive K-series engine

FACTS AND FIGURES

Engine: 4-cylinder, K-Series in 1.4 and 1.6-litre forms; **Transmission:** Five-speed manual or automatic with Honda engine; **Performance:** for 416i, top speed 115mph; 0-60mph in 10.3 secs; **Fuel consumption:** 35.5 mpg; **Price:** £12,995 for 416i; **Insurance group:** 10.



Top of the range: but even with added extras, the Felicia GLXi is priced at just £7,699

Heard the one about the German corporation that bought the Czech carmaker which produced tired old hatchbacks, normally the brunt of even wearier old jokes?

After a large injection of cash and a crash course in modern car production, Volkswagen helped Skoda come up with the punchline: the Skoda Felicia — a thorough overhaul of the company's existing Favorit model. There is, though, nothing funny about this five-door hatchback.

Under communism Skoda had a miserable time, because the authorities and a struggling economy made the rules. The company's designers and engineers knew what was wrong with the cars but could not afford — or were not allowed — to put them right. Now, thanks to Volkswagen finance, that can change.

The jibes traditionally aimed at the cash-starved products are no longer relevant. Although based on the five-year-old Favorit, the Felicia is substantially removed from previous efforts.

The new car has lost the angular-look of the Favorit; there is a family resemblance that harks back to the days when the Czech government insisted the windscreens were not steeply raked — in case they looked too decadently sporty — but the overall appearance is far more in keeping with modern competition.

In particular, the panels and paintwork are improvements Skoda should be proud of. Unlike the Favorit, the sheet metal of the Felicia's doors and bonnet fit flush with the bodywork and the paint is neat and even.

The styling has changed sufficiently to disguise the new car's much-maligned roots: in a test with 300 drivers, only six recognised it as a Skoda — away from test conditions that's no problem, since the Felicia is the first model to wear the new hideously-oversized Skoda badge on its nose.

Some say the badge is a mistake, since the Skoda image is probably the car's biggest handicap. However, the company is spending £5 million this year on a marketing campaign designed to pull its image into the 1990s. Lines such as: "Before we changed the car, we changed the company," and "We changed the car, can you change your mind?" are designed to alter preconceptions and draw customers' attention to Volkswagen's involvement.

The greatest steps towards a modern Skoda are inside the Felicia, where everything is bolted together firmly; the seats are genuinely comfortable, the switchgear solid, the instruments clear. There are none of the rattles and squeaks so typical of the old car, and the feeling that it's all about to fall apart in your hands has gone.

Skoda has splashed out on a stereo, sunroof and central locking for the top GLXi Felicia, but its £7,699 price tag doesn't stretch to electric windows. Skip all the comforts — except a five-speed gearbox — and the basic LXi price is £5,999. All models are fitted with an immobiliser, and airbags and anti-lock brakes are expected next year.

Pricing is what attracts customers to a Skoda showroom: last year, only 22 per cent chose the Favorit for its style, while almost half said they bought a Skoda because of value for money and more than 40 per cent were originally considering buying a second-hand car. Whatever the reason, the company expects to sell 8,000 Felicias this year, as well as the 6,000 Favorits still lying about.

Driving the new Skoda is a surprisingly pleasant experience: it steers as soon as you turn the wheel, unlike the Favorit, which just leans in the general direction you're aiming for. The revamped suspension is hard over poor road surfaces, but a great improvement over the soggy settings on the old car.

The 1.3-litre engine — available in 54bhp and 68bhp versions — is surprisingly quiet; even at motorway speeds it cruises peacefully. Volkswagen 1.6 petrol and 1.9 diesel engines will be fitted in the Felicia later this year. However, for now there's just the one engine with two power outputs and three trim levels: LXi, LXi Plus and GLXi.

It's remarkable what 60 million marks (£27 million) can do to transform a dodgy old hatchback into a quality family car like the Felicia, and Volkswagen can take credit for that. The Czechs, however, take credit for 95 per cent of the engineering work, proving that with enough cash Skoda does know how to get it right.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Engine: 4-cylinder, 1.3-litre giving 54bhp or 68bhp; **Transmission:** Five-speed manual; **Performance:** for 54bhp model, top speed 90mph, 0-60mph in 17 seconds; **Fuel consumption:** urban cycle, 34mpg. **Price:** from £5,999; **Insurance group:** 4.

Win the new Rover MGF

THE TIMES Win an MGF



TOKEN SEVEN

Since it was first shown at the Geneva Motor Show in March, more than 500 orders have been placed for Rover's new MGF. *The Times*, in association with Rover Group, is offering readers a chance to beat the queue by winning one of the first cars off the production line.

Collect six of the MGF tokens appearing in *The Times* every day and attach them to the application form below. You may send in as many entries as you wish, but each must be on an official form, accompanied by six tokens.

The competition closes on May 27. Normal Times Newspaper rules apply. For further information on the MGF range please call 01645 251 251.

OFFICIAL APPLICATION FORM

I enclose six tokens from the *The Times* and wish to enter the draw.

MR/MRS/MISS/MS

ADDRESS

.....

POSTCODE DAY PHONE

CAR DRIVEN (MAKE MODEL)

..... REG. LETTER ☐

DATE PURCHASED MONTH YEAR

IS THE CAR PRIVATELY OWNED? ☐ COMPANY ☐

WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU WILL REPLACE THE CAR?

MONTH YEAR (e.g July 1995)

WHICH ROVER ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

800 / 600 . 400 / 200 / 100 / Mini / MGF

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further mailings from *The Times* or Rover Group ☐

Can you drive off in style?

AN EXPENSES-PAID two-week touring holiday for two in Europe with a car provided and £500 spending money awaits the winner of our search for the Company Car Driver of 1995.

There are still ten days for companies to enter this contest, which is dedicated to improving the skills and training of the thousands of fleet drivers in Britain. The winning company will get free training for a dozen of its drivers.

If you want to join this contest sponsored by *The Times* and Lease Plan — with more than 40,000 cars under its wing, Britain's leading fleet management company — all you have to do is gather a team of three drivers from your company and persuade your own fleet manager to fill in the adjacent form.

There will be six regional heats and we are looking for 120 teams to take part along with their fleet managers. Each driver will face a series of tests, including a practical driving demonstration in one of the £15,000 Primera 2.0 SLX cars that Nissan is providing for the contest.

They will have to demonstrate their skill on both road and track to examiners from Drive Tech, one of Britain's leading driver-training schools. Fleet managers will also be tested on their knowledge of roadcraft and driving safety.

Teams will be selected by way of a surprise telephone quiz, which will test their knowledge of the Highway Code. The winners will go through to the final at the Silverstone Driving Centre under the critical gaze of John Watson, the former Formula One driver.

THE TIMES Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1995

The centre trains more than 10,000 drivers a year. Watson shows how the expertise he demonstrated on the track with the McLaren team can be applied to road conditions. His belief is that if drivers enjoy their time at the wheel, they are more likely to practice safe-driving techniques.

LAST YEAR more than 250 drivers from 70 organisations, ranging from a team of district nurses to teams from multinational companies, entered the contest.

Chris Howell, the founder of Drive Tech, said of that contest: "Standards were encouragingly high and they were obviously keen to improve their skills. Certainly the finalists were of a very high standard."

The intention of this year's contest is to exceed those standards. But if you enjoy driving then what better prize could there be than two weeks of freedom on the roads?

THE TIMES

LEASE PLAN COMPANY CAR DRIVER 1995

Company

Address

..... Postcode

Entrant Position

Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for your company's car fleet.

Tel No Fax No

Nature of Business

No of employees No of company cars

Nominated drivers

Surname Age Surname Age

Forename(s) Forename(s)

Job title Job title

How long employed yrs Points on licence How long employed yrs Points on licence

Surname Age Surname Age

Forename(s) Forename(s)

Job title Job title

How long employed yrs Points on licence How long employed yrs Points on licence

Please select one first and one second choice for the location and date of your team's regional heat (indicate your selection by placing a 1 or 2 within box):

Oxford, (Moat House), 8th June ☐ Ware, Hertfordshire, (Briggens House Hotel) 12th July ☐

Nottingham, (Moat House), 14th June ☐ Glasgow, (Moat House International), 22nd June ☐

Hereford, (Moat House), 28th June ☐ Blackburn, (Moat House), 4th July ☐

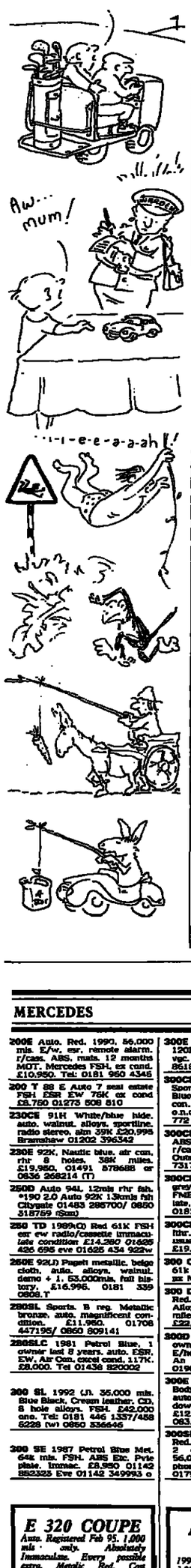
Please ensure that you and your nominated drivers are available on both your first and second choice and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 11th August. Initial qualification will be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

Send completed entries by 17 May, 1995 to: The Times - Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1995, Leedex PR, 52-54 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FF

COMPETITION RULES

The closing date for entries is 17 May 1995. Drivers must be over 24 years of age to enter. Maximum number of endorsements on any competitors' driving licence is three points. Drivers must bring their current driving licence to their regional heat for confirmation of the above. Drivers must be nominated by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in groups of three. Companies can only enter one team to compete. The entrant may nominate him/herself as part of the team. Competitors must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their employment or remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependant on a written test, to be completed by the entrant at their team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, Nissan, News International and the Birkdale Group are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the event, specialist organisations such as driver training companies, police, the armed forces and the like may not be permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed by post, at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify for the regional heat, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the first heat and the team will be placed on a reserve list. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to attend, the next highest scoring driver from that regional heat will be invited to attend in their place. The prize for the winner will be a seven day European motoring holiday for two. The team/company prize will be a driver programme for twelve employees. Cash alternatives are not available. The judges's decision is final.

CAR ... TOONS



Day of the armchair test-drive is looming on a screen near you, says **Vaughan Freeman**

TV-shop for your dream car

Car buyers can now go shopping by TV, finding out all they need to know about a particular model from the comfort of their home before heading to their local dealership for a test drive.

The launch this week of car adverts on Britain's first advertising-only television channel, Videotron, is one of several developments which bring a new dimension to car sales. This will include touch-screen "brochures" which will be seen in workplace canteens and DIY stores, as well as the ability to view new and used car details from your living room via the information superhighway.

The Videotron idea brings car dealer and auto magazine adverts to the domestic small-screen so TV watchers can call up the car of their dreams using a television remote control handset, and view the vehicle from their sofa before switching back to the late-night movie.

It means the 100,000 or so subscribers to the Videotron network in London now have 24-hour access to the continuous Auto Finder programme. They will be able to call up lists of cars within certain price brackets, and within certain age and mileage ranges, together with details of the seller.

Benjamin Ball, Videotron's multimedia services manager, said: "We have about 100 cars advertised on the network at the moment, but that will grow quickly to 400 or 500. The system is already hugely popular in America and Canada, where it has been in operation for 12 years.

"In Montreal, for instance, it is one of the biggest and most popular selling mediums, and 90 per cent of cable-TV subscribers there tune into the sales channel at least once a week."

Other computer car-sales technologies include The Car Shop, a £5 million interactive computer system from the Camden Motors car retail network. Camden Motors is owned by Barclays Bank and The Car Shop; computers are being tried out at two Barclays Bank Centres in Poole and Northampton.

The Car Shop uses a large touch-sensitive screen. By repeatedly touching the screen, the details of hundreds of new and used cars, with pictures and a voice-over, are called up, and the idea is to install them in workplace canteens and DIY centres.

Customers can even book a test-drive using the computer console. By the time he or she arrives at the dealership, staff will have the right car available for a test-drive and all the paperwork done to enable the deal to be completed, if the customer likes the car.


As seen on TV: screen sales

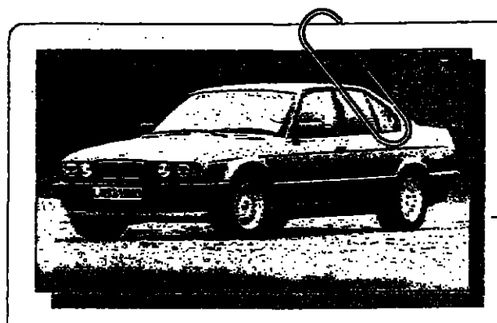
John Bacon, Camden Motors executive director, said: "Today, consumers often buy the cars we want to sell them because we have the problem of over-supply. In this age of technology, we will be able to supply the customer with what they want, not what we've already got sitting on the shelf."

In America, buyers can already see on their home computer screens, via the global computer network Internet, pictures and details of thousands of new and used cars.

The Dealernet "virtual reality" showroom is the brainchild of American Volvo dealer Marty Rood, who will show it off this month to UK dealers. He said: "Customers can do all their research at home so that when they come to the dealership they're ready to make a purchase, not come on a fact-finding trip."

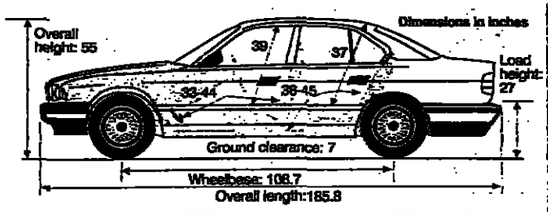
Mr Bacon says computer-screen car browsing is the way forward: "It is conceivable that by the end of the century, every dealer outlet will have some form of computer kiosk or interactive sales terminal. The system could also be used on interactive TV and satellite — bringing car sales directly into the living room."

USED CAR BRIEF



BMW 5 SERIES

In 1988 BMW introduced its all-new 5 series to replace the original boxy 5 which appeared in 1981. This Bavarian executive cruiser still looks modern with its bulbous, curvy lines, and the six-cylinder engines will give reliable motoring well past the 100,000 mile mark if cared for. Close to 80,000 were sold in Britain, and there are models with all engine sizes from 1.8-litre petrol to 4.0-litre petrol and diesel. In 1989 the sought-after 535i Sport was introduced, followed by a four-cylinder 518i and SE in 1990. The M5 cult performance car arrived in 1990, and 3.0 and 4.0-litre V8 models in 1993, together with a new 2.5-litre, six-cylinder turbo diesel



GOOD NEWS: Power steering is standard on all variants. Seats are very comfortable and on all models front seats have height, rake and tilt adjustment. Steering wheel also adjusts for relaxed driving

BAD NEWS: While there is plenty of room for front seat occupants, those adults in the back with longer legs are likely to suffer. Problems too for those who habitually travel with lots of luggage since rear seats do not fold down to increase boot space. BMW franchised services can be costly though fast-fit repairs through BMW dealers come with warranty

PRICE RANGE: Expect to pay £4,500 for an E-reg 1988 525i, £7,000 for a 1988 F-reg 520i, £14,500-£15,000 for a J-reg 1991 525i SE, and £17,500-£18,000 for a 1992 J-reg 535i SE

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1990 BMW 525i will cost a 55-year old professional, male or female, with full no claims bonus, living in Winchester, £252 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year old male living in London with one year's no claims bonus will pay £2,835 fully comprehensive, and a similar female £2,412

AVOID: 518 models considered under-powered. Avoid cars without luxuries, such as manual 530i models. High speed motorway motoring may have left bonnets and front wings with stone chipping. 520 models might have been overworked so check carefully and look for blue smoke from exhaust

OVERALL: BMW's reputation for build quality and longevity means 5 series cars that have been properly maintained will have a lot of life left in them. Saving money when buying might mean bigger bills later, so spending more on a car with full service history makes sense

SAFETY RATING: One of the safest cars on the road according to Department of Transport figures. The post 1988 5 series are second only to the Jaguar XJ series for safety and up to 50% safer than average

LOOK FOR: Cars in this executive/luxury sector are expensive to repair so a full service history is an absolute must as a hedge against hefty bills. Best buys for resale include those cars with an automatic gearbox and metallic paint, plus SE (special equipment) specification. 525, 530 and 535 versions all have anti-lock brakes as standard, and ABS became standard on 518 and 520 models from 1992

REPLACEMENT PARTS (prices include VAT): Clutch assembly £155; full exhaust £395; rear damper £100; front brake pads £60; alternator £95; starter motor £175; tyre £55-90

50 L-REG CARS UNDER £7,000

MODEL	PRICE Apr-95	May-95	Chge
Rover Mini 1300 Sprite	4525	4475	-1.10
Citroen AX 10 Debut 5dr	4875	4875	0.00
Daihatsu Mira 5dr	4875	4875	0.00
FSO Caro 1.5 GLXi 5dr	4550	4550	0.00
Fiat Cinquecento 3dr	4425	4425	0.00
Fiat Panda 1.0 CLX 3dr	4175	4175	0.00
Fiat Uno 1.0ie Start 3dr	4895	4895	0.00
Ford Fiesta 1.1i 3dr	5595	5595	0.00
Hyundai X2 1.3LS 5dr	5095	4495	-1.96
Lada Riva 1500 E 4dr	2975	2925	-1.68
Lada Samara 1500 GL 5dr	4695	4695	0.00
Nissan Micra 1.0L 3dr	5625	5625	0.00
Peugeot 106 1.1XN Graduate 3dr	6095	5975	-1.96
Peugeot 205 1.1i Junior 3dr	5995	5995	0.00
Proton 1.3 GE 4dr	5195	4950	-4.71
Proton 1.3 GL Aeroback 5dr	6175	5875	-4.85
Renault 5 Campus Prima 3dr	4595	4475	-2.61
Renault Clio RL 1.2 Prima 3dr	5950	5950	0.00
Renault Clio 1.9 RL Prima Diesel 3d	6425	6425	0.00
Rover Metro 1.1 Quest 3dr	4695	4675	-0.42
Rover Metro 1.1 C 5dr	5175	5125	-0.96
Rover Metro 1.1 S 5dr	6095	5995	-1.64
Rover Metro 1.4 LD 5dr	6475	6425	-0.77
Seat Ibiza 1.3 CL 3dr	5925	5750	-2.95
Skoda Favorit GLXi 5dr	4995	4950	-0.90
Skoda Favorit GLXi Estate	5395	5295	-1.85
Subaru Vivio GLi 4WD 5dr	5125	5095	-0.58
Suzuki Swift 1.3 GS 3dr	6875	6825	-0.72
Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i Merit 3dr	5975	5975	0.00
Vauxhall Corsa Merit Diesel 5dr	6895	6895	0.00
Volkswagen Polo 1.05 Geniesis Coupe	6825	6650	-2.56
Volksagen Polo 1.3 CL Coupe 3dr	6895	6525	-2.53
Rover Mini 1.3i Cooper	5675	5625	-0.88
Citroen ZX 1.4 Reflex 5dr	7175	7175	0.00
Dacia Duster GLX Estate	3975	3975	0.00
Daihatsu Charade 1.3 GSE 3dr	6425	6425	0.00
Fiat Punto 55 S 5dr	6125	6125	0.00
Fiat Tipo 1.4ie S 3dr	6095	6095	0.00
Fiat Tempra 1.6ie S 4dr	6395	6395	0.00
Ford Fiesta 1.1 LX 5dr	6650	6650	0.00
Ford Escort 1.3 5dr	6650	6295	-5.33
Kia Pride 1.3 LX 5dr	5225	5225	0.00
Nissan Micra 1.3 LX 3dr	6525	6525	0.00
Seat Toledo 1.6 CLi 5dr	6695	6595	-1.49
Subaru Justy SI 3dr	6525	6475	-0.76
Rover Maestro 1.3 Clubman 5dr	5650	5595	-0.97
Citroen AX 1.1 Forte	5550	5550	0.00
Seat Marbella 900 Fun 3dr	3950	3795	-3.92
Ford Fiesta 1.8 L Diesel 3dr	6395	6395	0.00
Ford Fiesta 1.3i Auto 3dr	6195	6195	0.00

CAP NATIONWIDE MOTOR RESEARCH LTD

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on L-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Nationwide Motor Research.

LUXURY cars, the pariahs of the forecourt during the recession, are back in fashion and fetching high prices again. While the market for mass-produced cars stagnates, demand for models such as Porsches, Bentleys and Jaguars is ten per cent ahead of last year, according to Glass's *Guide, the motor trade handbook* on used prices.

One of the reasons is the shortage of good cars on forecourts, caused by manufacturers slashing output during the slump.

New cars are not being discounted, says Glass's, while there are long lead times on cars coming from the factory with almost everything built only to customer order.

The result is that resale prices on some year-old luxury and performance models are higher than at any time in the *past decade*. Leslie Allen, editor of the guide, warns: "The outlook for the specialist car market is good, even though we doubt whether the high rate of improvement can be sustained."

MERCEDES

200E Auto. Red. 1990, 56,000 mls. E/w, ear. remote alarm. r/cass. ABS, mats. 12 months MOT. Mercedes FSH, ex cond. £10,950. Tel: 0181 960 4348

200 T 88 E Auto 7 seat estate FSH ESR EW 76K ex cond £8,750 01275 508 810

230CE 91H White/blue hide. auto. walnut. alloys. sportline. radio stereo. alm 39K £20,995 Bramshaw 01202 396342

230E 92K. Nautic blue. air con. rhr 8 holes, 38K miles. £13,980. 01491 578688 or 0836 268214 (T)

250D Auto 94L 12mls rhr fsh. +190 2.0 Auto 92K 13kmls fsh Citygate 01483 286700/ 0850 318759 (Sms)

250 TD 1989(G) Red 61K FSH ear ew radio/cassette *immaculate condition £14,280 01625 426 695 ew 01625 434 922w*

260E 92J Papeti metallic beige cloth. auto. alloys. walnut. demo + 1. 53,000mls. full history, £16,996. 0181 339 0808.T

280SL Sports. B reg. Metallic bronze. auto. magnificent condition. £11,950. 01708 447195/ 0860 809141

280SLC 1981 Petrol Blue, 1 owner last 8 years. auto. ESR, EW, Air Con, excel cond, 117K. £8,000. Tel 01438 820002

300 SL 1992 (J). 35,000 mls. Blue Black. Cream leather. CD. 8 hole alloys. FSH. £42,000 ono. Tel: 0181 446 1337/488 5228 (w) 0850 536646

300 SE 1987 Petrol Blue Met. 64k mls. FSH. ABS Etc. Pvte plate. Immac. £8,950 01142 882323 Eve 01142 349993 o

300E 89 F. Nautic Blue/walnut. 120K mls. FMBSH. a/c, ear. vgc. £10,500 Tel: w 01282 861800 h 01655 278241.

300CE 24V. 1990 H. Auto. Sportsline. 44,000 mls. Immac. Blue/black. cream leather. air con. full spec. FMBSH. £24,950 o.n.o. 0181 960 8133 (h)/ 0171 772 1320 (w)

300CE Auto (88 E) Ivory/ltbr. ABS. ESR. Low susp. Alpine. r/cass. 6 spoke alloys. FSH. Outstanding. £16,600. 01202 731731 (d)/ 8880645 (h)

300CE July 1989. blue/black. grey leather, a/c + other extras. FMBSH. 55k. 8 holes. immaculate, private sale. £17,500 ono. 0181 508 5649/5862

300CE '90. Blue/ black. cream ltbr. S/line. alloys. p/o stereo. *usual elecs. 53K. FSH, stunning.* £19,750. 01442 244999

300 CE Auto 1990 AMG kitted 61k FSH black hi-spec £18,750 inc Marlow 01628 487314 T

300 D Auto. K Reg. Almandine Red. Walnut trim. Rear spoiler. Alloy wheels. MB alarm. 9K miles. Absolutely immaculate. £22,750. Tel: 01748 720 286.

300D 92J Silver. 19K mls. 1 owner. FSH. Alarm. Spoiler. E/headrests/ windows. Alloys. An exceptional car £21,750. 01902 747001.T

300E 1989 G. 75k. full BBS Bodykit inc bonnet & wheels. auto. air con. power roof. windows etc. stunning looking. £12,995. 01933 222783 / 0831 482427 T

300SL August 1989(F). Bright Red. Beige leather interior trim, 2 owners, service history, 56,000 miles. £21,000 Please phone St Michaels Garage 01795 477363 (Kent)

300 SE '87. slab sides. excellent condition. gold with red trim. air/con. all electrics. Becker Mexico. 88,000 mls. 1 owner since '87. full history. Private no. £8,980. 01462 454691 (M).

300SL 1987 Red. rear child sts.c/c. A/wbls. pull out stereo. only 12K superb £26,995 Bramshaw 01202 396342

300SL 92J Midnight blue/ roushroom hide. 8h alloys. c/coded. c/c. hiww. cd 24K £42,995 Bramshaw 01202 396342

300SL (86) White, black hide. rear seat, air conditioning, 33,000 miles. fsh. exceptional £19,950 Tel 01772 613114.(T)

300SL 88F. Blue blk/blk hide. rear seat. cruise, hid seats. otg. 26,000mls. mint. £POA. Wheelhouse 0118 970 5555.

300SL '89 F. Deep blue, cream ltbr. H/S top, rear seats. 48K mls. FMBSH. alloys - beautiful. £22,950. Tel: 01296 747073

300 SL 86 (D). Very low mileage, 26,000 mls. Black met. FSH. ABS. Alarm. Stereo. Carphone. £17,995. Tel: 0181 665 3829

300SL Multivalve. New shape. Upgraded to 94 spec. Colour coded white. 8 hole. £37,500 p/x. 0850 334060

300TE Auto 1991 J air con. alloys blue black metallic, one owner. FSH. 68,000 miles. £19,995 Tel: Dennis Hodgetts 01384 633455 office hours. evenings 01384 221388

300TE 24v. 92(J). blue black. beige cloth. auto, rear seat. alloys. 1 owner. 42,000mls. full history. £20,995. 0181 339 0808.T

300TE 93K Silver/grey cloth.a/c. 8h alloys, walnut. hiww. 1 our. 26K mls. £31,995 Bramshaw 01202 396342

300TE 24V. 90H. Almandine red, 2 owners. 58,300 miles. FMSH. 7 seats. leather. air-cond & many more extras. £19,750. Tel: 01483 426257

300 TE auto. 7 seater estate. '91 J. 65K mls. dade grey metallic. beige cloth. alloys. FMBSH. As new. Merc warranty. £20,500. Tel: 01925 710697.

300TE Auto Est. F Reg. 60k mls. FSH. Original & Perfect Throughout. £11,980. 01622 832503/ 0831 184227 T

300TD 90(H) Diamond blue. auto. 1 owner. 69K. full history £16,995. 0181 339 0808

300 TD EST Diesel J 92. Auto. Pearl. Alloys. 48K £19,950 Tel: 0191 2811551/0860 464060 T

320CE 93K Brilliant Silver with black hide, elec s'roof. 8 hole alloys, sportline. airbag. elec.f.seats. temp gauge. stereo. 1 owner. full Mercedes H/book £29,995 Heathrow BMW 0181 848 8866 or 0374 119145

320CE June 93 K, Pearl Blue. Sportline with all extras. Only 9,000 mls. £36,995. Tel: 0116 276 7142/ 0850 930667!

350 SL silver blue 82,000 miles 2 owners history private plate h/s legs good £9,250 exchange? 01798 875 659(Sussex)

350 SL 1972 Red/cream leather. rear seats, hard top. history. £9,500. (w/end) 01689 856803/ (eff.) 0181 294 2222

380 SL Sept 1980. Personalised number. Gold. Auto. Hard/Soft top. FSH. Original condition. £10,000. Tel: 01242 585 162

420SL Mercedes Sports. F reg. Pearl grey metallic. grey leather with rear seat. FMBSH, 74,000 mls. hard & soft tops. 1 previous owner. maintained regardless of cost. immac cond. £20,000 ono. 0181 486 7072

420 SE 1990. Only 38K mls. Super cond. Havana Brown/ Cream Hide. Auto. ABS, ESR. EW. FSH. AW. ALR. Best offer secures.01487 773619.

420SEC Unique 29,000 miles only, tax advantage. MB warranty details ring today 0860 251435

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John Cleland tells **David Thompson** how he started small with a Mini

Dreams of quick blasts in Ferraris

STEERING COLUMN

John Cleland has been racing for Vauxhall/Opel since 1980; he won the British Touring Car Championship in 1989 and has twice been runner-up in the series. He enters the next race at Thruxton this weekend lying third in the championship.

His hectic life is a careful balance between race and testing commitments and spending time with his wife and four children at home in the Scottish Borders where, like his father before, he also manages his busy Volvo and Mazda dealerships.

How and when did you learn to drive?

I was eight. I climbed into a Mini-van in my father's workshop, selected a gear and drove off. Luckily it was reverse gear, so I shot out of the garage and across the car park. Later, a family friend taught me in three short, sharp lessons. I learnt quickly, as every mistake was rewarded with a punch, and passed first time, just after my 17th birthday.

What was your first race car?

My father first put up the money to buy me a Mini for racing, with strict instructions to pay him back at the end of the year. I worked hard to find a sponsor to fund my racing, was reasonably successful and eventually paid back my father. I'm very proud to say that I've always made a profit from every car since that first Mini.

What do you drive now?

I race a Vauxhall Cavalier in the BTCC series, though it's quite a bit modified from the standard road car. I use a Volvo T5-R Estate for running around on business and at home there's a Vauxhall Omega 3.0-litre Elite, which is great for the family. In between, there are countless other cars to drive on customer demos.

Do you enjoy driving?

Is the Pope a Catholic? I especially enjoy the mind games on the race track. It's a lot of fun to walk up and down the pit lane before a race, trying to "psych out" the other drivers, even though we're all good pals. And, of course, it's always nice to drive a good car on a clear road.

What is your dream car?

I'd love to have a Mercedes 600 SL with the full AMG bodykit, suspension, wheels and tyres. It's my sort of car. But I'd also want a Ferrari F355 for a quick blast in the country — or countries if you put your foot down.

What car would you send to the crusher?

My old Morris Marina 1.8HL, which was just dreadful in all respects. The handling was kind of interesting, like 10lbs of manure in a 5lb bag! I once managed to spin it in the middle of the Kingston Bridge in Glasgow, which is a straight road!



High hopes: John Cleland with his Vauxhall Cavalier

What is your worst habit whilst driving?

Going too fast. It's almost an occupational hazard with the kind of cars I drive. When I'm racing I'm really going for fast lap times, but when I drive a road car it can seem like slow motion. QED.

So is there any space left on your licence for penalty points?

You might well ask. I've had so many I can't recall them all. They're for things like 41mph in a 30 limit, or 89mph on a motorway, never anything lunatic. At one court appearance, my lawyer told me to keep quiet about racing. But before the proceedings the prosecutor asked for my autograph.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Landing a brand new 4x4 Cavalier upside down in the garden of our ex-babysitter, with her in the passenger seat. Driving her back to her home one night, it was snowing and I failed to make the last corner. I hit a kerb and slowly rolled into her front garden. The girl wasn't best pleased, but at least I got her address right.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

People's inability to understand exactly what's happening on the road around them. The current driving test is partly to blame, I think, because it's of such a poor standard, totally outdated.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

I would cure motorway misery by throwing men and machines at the roadworks, get them done in the shortest possible time.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Motorists warned on shock absorbers danger

Motorists are risking their safety because of worn shock absorbers despite driving cars with good tyres, brakes and steering.

A recent survey of 11,000 cars conducted by Monroe — the world's largest producer of shock absorbers for car manufacturers from Alfa Romeo to Volvo — found that one in four had shock absorbers that were deficient. According to Monroe, more than 80 per cent of motorists are not aware of the dangers of neglect.

When a car hits a hole in the road and swerves excessively, most motorists will swear under their breath and reproach either their lack of attention, or the car. When children on the back seat complain of motion sickness, most drivers will dismiss it as the norm. And when a car covers an alarming distance in an emergency stop, the tyres are likely to be criticised. Most motorists don't realise defective shock absorbers could be to blame for all these faults.

Other symptoms of worn shock absorbers include loose steering, headlight oscillation that dazzles oncoming traffic at night, and increased risk of aquaplaning. The reason for these hazards is that worn absorbers cannot carry out their function of "damping"; which means controlling the bouncing effect of the suspension's springs over bumps. Without springs a car jolts its occupants severely, but without shock absorbers (also known as dampers) to restrain the springs, the car behaves like a bouncing ball.

A typical modern shock absorber consists of two tubes; a "working cylinder" which contains a piston that moves up and down in oil, and a surrounding "reserve tube" providing a reservoir for the oil squeezed out of the working cylinder by the piston. The piston contains small holes, the size and number are "set" to suit the chosen characteristics of the car (the more oil the softer the "setting"). The top of the piston is attached to the car body, the bottom of the cylinders to the wheel.

When a wheel hits a bump, compressing the spring, the top and bottom of the shock absorber are forced together, moving the piston through the oil. The result is a controlled flow of oil through the holes in the piston — any excess is forced into the reserve tube — restraining the "compression" and "rebound" movements of the cylinders, which in turn restrains the springs and stops the wheels bouncing. Over four or five years — depending on the car, mileage and driving style — most motorists do not notice the gradual deterioration of their car's handling as the absorbers age.

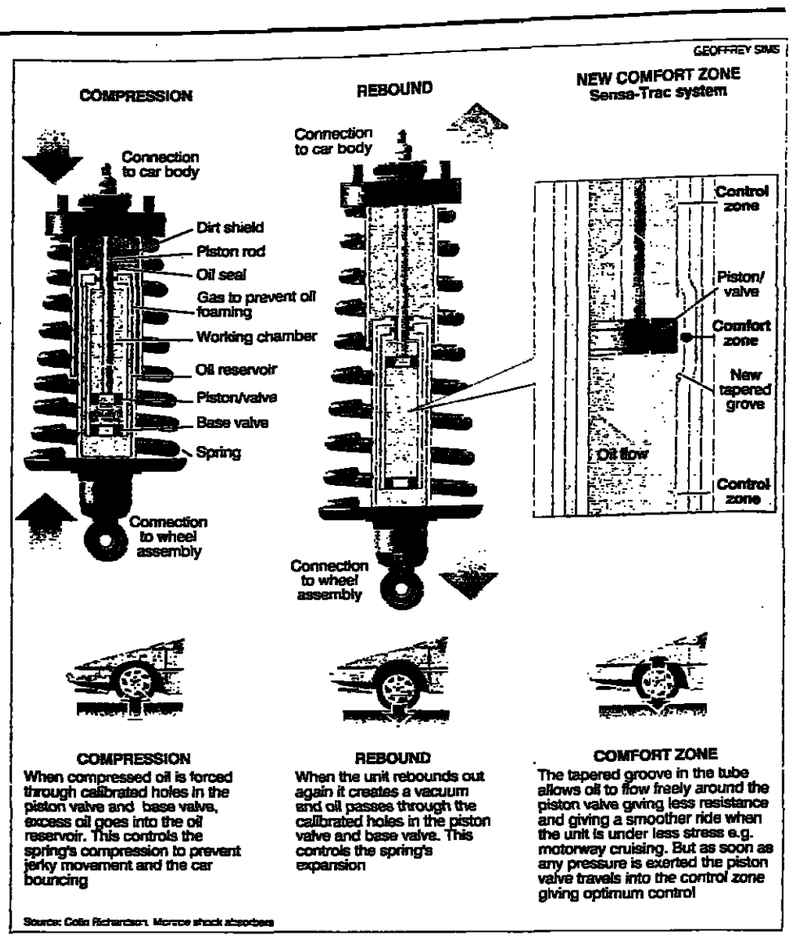
The braking distance of a car travelling at 50mph can increase by 7ft if its shock absorbers are worn. Anti-lock braking cannot come to the rescue because the wrong signals are being sent to the ABS computer. ABS control is usually applied to a pair of wheels, so one wheel bouncing in the air results in the other being deprived of braking even though it could be firmly on the road.

Electronic suspension is the next step for shock absorbers but it is too expensive at present, which is where Monroe's new Sensa-Trac comes in with a feature known as "position sensitive damping".

The Sensa-Trac has a short tapered groove in the reserve tube called a "comfort zone". This allows oil to flow freely around the piston when the car is on a motorway or other smooth straight road. The result is a smoother, less fidgety ride.

On more demanding surfaces, the oil reaches the upper or lower control zones where the groove tapers. It is then forced through the piston holes, which increases the pressure and stiffens the damping force. By instantly switching from the "comfort zone" to the "control zone" as the surface changes, the Sensa-Trac is said to resolve the conflict between comfort and safe handling.

GEOFFREY SIMS



Source: Colin Richardson, Monroe shock absorbers

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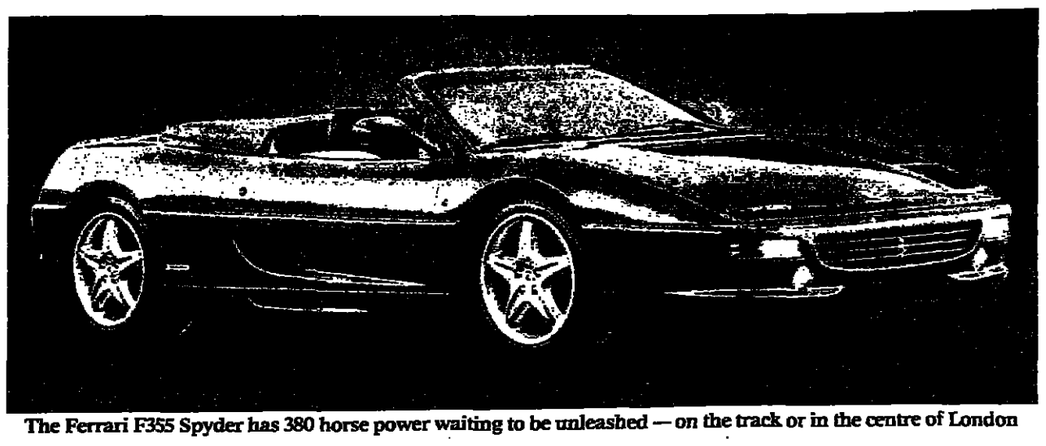
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A Spyder weaving pure magic



The Ferrari F355 Spyder has 380 horse power waiting to be unleashed — on the track or in the centre of London

To lose one Ferrari is misfortune but to lose two within 12 hours could be described as careless.

Antonio Ghini cupped his chin in his hands and contemplated the odds on the cars of both the company's Formula One race drivers being stolen — cars loaned to Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi to attend the San Marino Grand Prix last weekend.

Berger parked his F355 Berlinetta outside his hotel and returned to find an empty length of tarmac; next morning, Jean Alesi awoke to find his 512M gone. Cars worth £220,000, lost forever.

Ferrari had its new F355 Spyder on show in Monaco — the last of five new models from the famous Maranello factory in just two years — and Ghini, Ferrari's communications director, shepherded his four new babies as though his very life depended on it. Losing such a glorious object of motoring creation to thieves whose only objective would be to strip it down into boxes of valuable components does not bear thinking about. Just sitting at the wheel made me want one ... now. Not because the Spyder is expensive, not because it is some sort of status symbol but because it is simply the best.

Like owning a Picasso or listening to Mozart, driving a Ferrari is not an activity, it is an act of passion. The heart of any motorist, no matter how cynical after long hours in British traffic jams, would skip a beat at the wheel because the experience is so remote from workaday driving. There is a tautness, a feeling of restrained power that might at first be daunting but is remarkably easy to control, even when crawling in second gear in a line of traffic.

The Spyder has 380 horse power waiting to be unleashed, but as Ghini says: "If you have 380 horse power and that means you have to drive like crazy, then there is no point to the car. The 355 is two cars in one, a car you can drive on the track but also a car you could drive in the centre of London quite easily."

Hearing that philosophy from a Ferrari executive is a revelation. Time was when Ferraris were cars with a racing pedigree that just happened to be translated into road models. If you could not drive it, it was your own fault.

The Spyder, though, is a sign that Maranello has emerged from a period of huge change. Boom — when Ferrari sold a record 4,200 cars in 1991 — was followed by the crash in 1993 when sales dropped to 2,350. Luca di Montezumolo, the new and youthful president, killed off any notions that Ferrari was a mass manufacturer and has pinned maximum annual production to 3,000 cars a year. That means you might have to wait 18 months for your Spyder, even if you order one now. But you will really want it.

And Ferrari wants its cars to be driven. Stuart Robinson, managing director of Ferrari UK, reckons there are more than 3,800 Ferraris registered for daily use in Britain.

Vital statistics: a 3.5-litre, 40-valve V8 mounted midships which fires the car to 62mph in 4.7 seconds and on to a top speed of 185mph, with twin airbags, anti-lock brakes and electronically controlled suspension for a "soft" ride around town.

The numbers, though, do not tell the story. What does it feel like to drive a Spyder? Answer: glorious. The turn of the ignition unleashes the V8, each blip of the throttle encouraging a gurgle then a roar so musical that it gives as much pleasure as listening to the stereo (which is just as well because there isn't one fitted).

The Spyder is the convertible version of the F355, using an electrical hood mechanism derived from the Mercedes SL. Where the Merc is antiseptic, the Ferrari is seductive. The interior is a tight fit even for the vertically challenged and although would-be owners will pay £89,000, there are no electric seat controls. But that is a frippery in a car engineered this well because this is the motoring equivalent of slipping on a glove.

You feel connected to the car in a way which sharpens your responses, although the throttle is not nervous and can be dipped as easily as the accelerator pedal on a Mondeo.

The Spyder is a simply wonderful car and I would keep it under lock, key and chain.

Indian posse in mountain rescue job

In the second of his special reports on the 25th anniversary London-Mexico Rally, Roy Dixon, co-driving Tony Fall in a Volvo 142S, reports from La Paz in the high Andes on week two of the 30-day race.

A rest day at last, which has come as a welcome relief to all the competitors, officials, and the AA mechanics. The race has been tough so far; not only the stages but also the transport sections.

The journey through South America has been dramatic. We have covered 625 miles of straight monotonous roads over flat pampas, and "washboard" surface gravel in the mountains, where high speeds were necessary to eliminate vibration. All cars found a "frequency resonance" at which vibration was eliminated, which in turn meant we were catching each other up and having to travel in unbelievable dust storms.

Tony Fall and I have been making steady progress — notwithstanding our unending search for shock absorbing bushes — but we could have been eliminated on three occasions, when the organisers changed the start times in Paraguay, leaving Messrs Fall and Dixon none the wiser. When the door lock to a lavatory jammed at the Argentine border, I managed to climb out with great difficulty before rushing back to the car.

At one point we were arguing about whether to change tyres at 14,000ft, which would have taken us 20 minutes, when the Volvo got a puncture in the middle of nowhere. Suddenly out of the rocks and cacti appeared a group of Inca Indians who were immediately recruited as a service crew. All our wheels were changed in seven minutes, to the relief of driver and co-driver.

Peter Woodward and Robert Norkett, in their Austin 1800, were about three miles from the Argentine-Bolivian border and cruising comfortably on time, when three llamas idled across their path. They blew their air-horn, but the llamas seemed not to know what to do and they had to brake violently. As Woodward swerved to miss them, they jumped back into his path again, and he went into a hole, wrecking the Austin's front suspension and radiator. However, they are back in the rally with six hours penalties, and the llamas, untouched, continue their quiet lives.

Freddie Preston and George Hampson report that their quest to take Paddington Bear to Peru to meet Aunt Lucy is well on course. They also have with them the experienced koala bear "Pommie", a veteran of the London-Sydney rally, who apparently has enjoyed Paddington Bear's company no end.

Both bears have their own safety seats in Freddie's Rover 2000 and are raising money for the "Paddington Pommie Appeal", a joint venture by the Cancer Research Campaign and Action Research, which hopes to raise £50,000 for bone marrow transplants and the treatment of children with cancer.

Nick Brittan and his officials man the headquarters each day and see us all off each morning before jumping into light aircraft and flying to the next overnight stop. At Potosi in Bolivia, the runway had been shortened for repairs and, with the aircraft's weight so critical, one official was obliged to stay behind. He is hoping to catch up.



Full steam ahead in the original motor race along the beachfront at Bexhill-on-Sea

Remembering the first motor race – in Bexhill-on-Sea

Horseless carriages speeding along at 54mph

WHERE DID THE first international motor race in Great Britain take place? The answer is not obvious and there may be several claimants but there is only one place that celebrates the event — Bexhill-on-Sea in Sussex.

Tomorrow and on Monday, hundreds of vehicles — vintage, veteran, classic, rally, replica, racing, American and (heavily represented for VE-Day) military — will gather in the town to join an Edwardian festival. Some will parade in pairs along the course from the Sackville Hotel towards Galley Hill, where in 1902 pioneer motorists in the "heavy express class" travelled at up to 54mph despite a treacherously damp track. And all, remarkably, verified by electronic timing.

In the words of a contemporary *Motoring Illustrated* report: "The great Bexhill motor races and speed trials were carried out on Whit Monday under circumstances that completely demonstrated that the horseless carriage has become a permanent British institution."

Regrettably, racing along the seafront is no longer considered safe but vehicles from the period and from almost every other period will be joining the parade along the course. Proceeds will be donated to The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and several local charities. Entrance is free but programmes cost £1.50.

Organisers are hoping that the journey will be a little less fraught than in 1902, when: "The police ... hid in hedges, under the encouragement of the magistrates, and arranged signal systems for proving that cars went at more than 12mph."

● *Details: 01424 730564*

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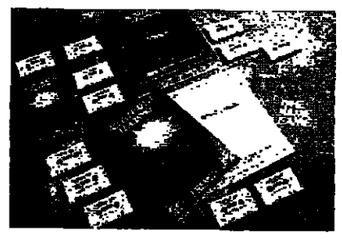
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GAMES

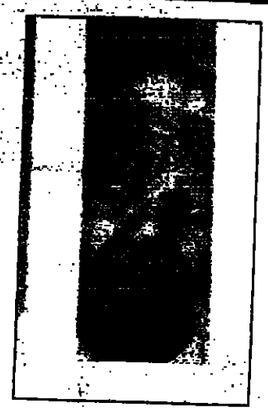


Holiday challenge — prize jumbo crossword

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PLUS: More fun and games, page 27

BOOKS



AT & T Awards: Mandela v the Brontës

Pages 13, 14

PLUS: More book reviews, pages 15, 16

GARDENING



How the modern cave man makes grottoes

Page 8

PLUS: Shear genius with hedges, page 9

TRAVEL



Smooth passage along the old Silk Road

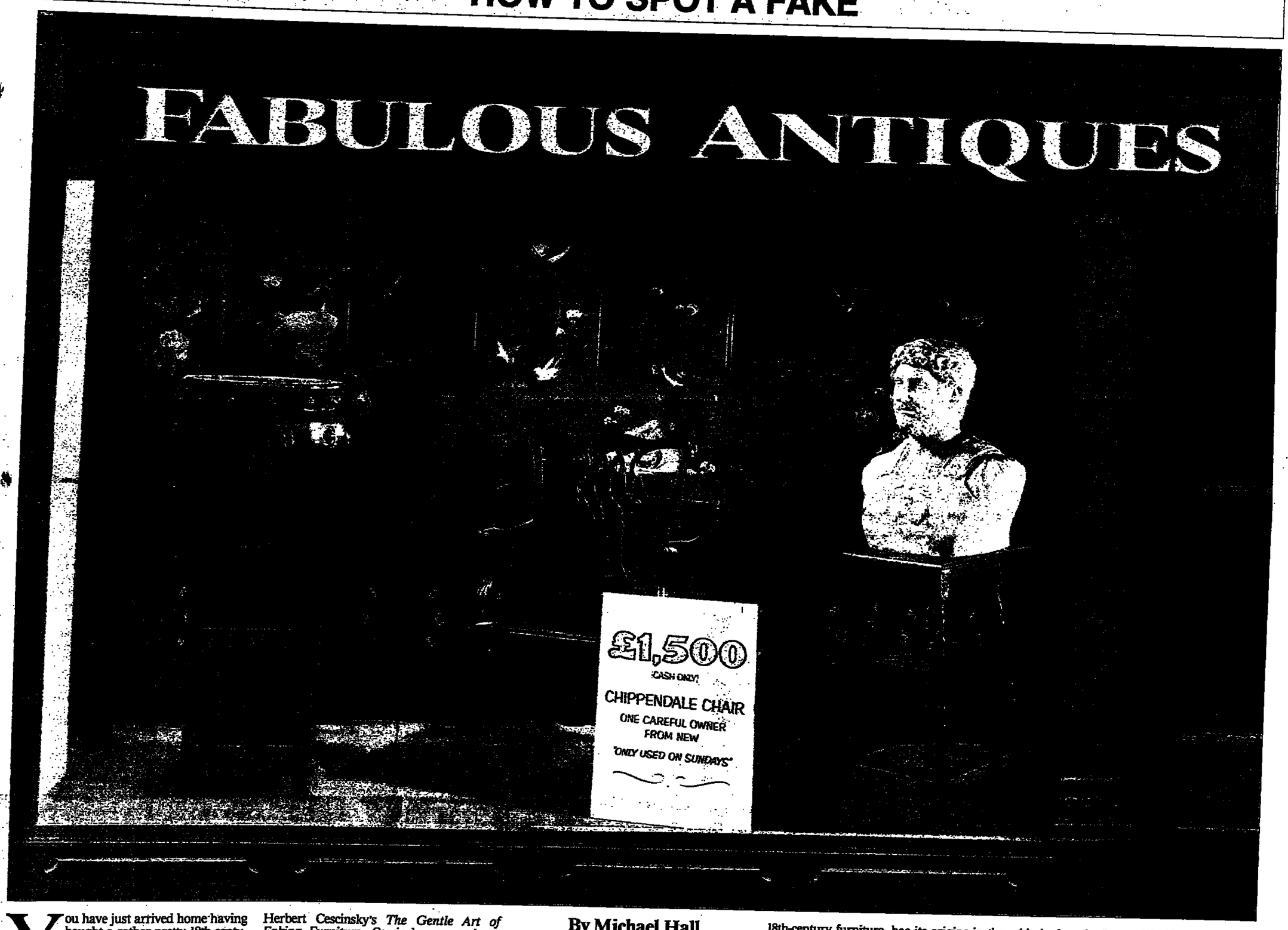
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PLUS: Bank Holiday events, pages 2, 23

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 6 1995

HOW TO SPOT A FAKE



By Michael Hall

You have just arrived home having bought a rather pretty 18th-century coffee table. Suddenly you are struck by the feeling that all is not quite right. Have you just laid out several thousand pounds on a piece that would make an expert fall about laughing? Should you have taken more advice about whether the piece is genuine or fake?

A grasp of the history of faking can ease the anxiety. The great age of furniture fraud ran from 1880 to about 1930 and led, in 1931, to one of the best-known books on the subject, Herbert Cescinsky's *The Gentle Art of Faking Furniture*. Cescinsky, an eminent connoisseur of furniture, took almost malicious pleasure in exposing the errors of rival furniture historians and collectors, such as Lord Leverhulme, who, he remarked, "had a positive genius for buying fakes". Leverhulme's magnificent collection of 18th-century English commodes, now in the Lady Lever Art Gallery, Liverpool, has recently been catalogued by Lucy Wood, whose book deals with the fakes in the collection in such detail that it forms essential reading for anybody who wants to learn how to distinguish genuine 18th-century craftsmanship from bogus.

During the 19th century, the faking business began to flourish hand in hand with a much more widespread appreciation of the so-called "golden age" of English furniture, from about 1660 to 1810. The smart West End dealer's shop with which we are familiar, stocked with choice pieces of well-polished 18th-century furniture, has its origins in the 1880s, when the idea that the 18th century embodied "good taste" started to take hold. Prices rose dramatically and, suddenly, such pieces became worth faking. As few of us can match Lord Leverhulme's purchasing power, few of us will make such spectacular mistakes, but more modest forgery committed in the 19th and early 20th centuries can still deceive.

One way to avoid fakes is to concentrate on areas where fakers have not operated. The great growth in interest in antiques of all kinds since the Second World War has led to Victorian and 20th-century pieces being widely collected, yet the sheer quantity of material means that it has, on the whole, not been worth faking. So it is largely collectors of 18th-century pieces that have to be wary. But there are obvious guidelines to follow. Buying from a reputable dealer or saleroom is important, as is information about provenance: where did an object come from? However, Cescinsky's characteristically acid

Continued on page 3, col 1

GROWING TIP N: 4

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CHOICE

Planning an evening out, or a day with your family? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

A REDISCOVERY: In the great fire which consumed the original Palace of Westminster in 1834 (memorably recorded by Turner) it has always been assumed that all the paintings (mural and on panel) in Henry III's lavish Painted Chamber were destroyed. Until two years ago, that is, when two panels from the ceiling, the earliest surviving English panel paintings, turned up in Bristol, in excellent condition. One shows an angel, the other a bearded prophet. They have been acquired by the British Museum with the help of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the National Art Collections Fund, and are now on show in room 42, along with fragments from nearby St Stephen's Chapel.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-636 1555). Mon to Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm, until October, when the panels will be included in the exhibition *Medieval Kings from Westminster*. &

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH; THE HARVEST WAGON: When Gainsborough painted his most famous and ambitious landscape, *The Harvest Wagon*, in 1767, he was particularly pleased with it. So, apparently, were his patrons, and in 1784-85 he painted the second version, sold directly to the Prince of Wales and given by him to Mrs Fitzherbert. The first version is now in Birmingham, at the Barber Institute, and the second is in the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. This exhibition brings the two together, along with 30 related paintings, drawings and prints, to illuminate the artist's creative processes. After its run in Birmingham it will be seen in Toronto.
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham (0121-235 2834). Mon to Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 12.30-5pm, until July 9. &

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

GOMBRICH ON SHADOWS: The art historian E.H. Gombrich has selected a wonderfully illuminating show at the National Gallery. Taking the theme of cast shadows in Western art, he makes us look at even the most well-known paintings with fresh eyes. Sometimes, the shadows are illusionistic: one of them is attached to a fly on the head-dress of an unknown Swabian woman. But Caravaggio takes a far more theatrical approach, turning *The Supper at Emmaus* into a battleground of rival shadows. Rembrandt is mesmerising, particularly in his portrait of a preacher bursting through the bounds of the picture-frame. Hendrick ter Brugghen's *The Concert* uses candlelight to turn friendly music-making into a darker, more apprehensive affair. Holbein's full-length portrait of the demure Christina of Denmark makes subtle use of the shadow on the green wall behind her. Gombrich himself stays out of view, but reveals his own elongated shadow in a photograph he took a few years ago in the setting sun.
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (0171-839 3321), until June 18. &

MINKY MANKY: The title of this lively mixed show at the South London Gallery defies literal meaning. But the curator, Carl Freedman, wants it that way, and the cheekiness of the title suits the irreverent mood running through the show. Apart from Gilbert and George, the exhibition concentrates on young artists. The most celebrated, Damien Hirst, contributes a tantalising double-sided cage sculpture with a beach-ball suspended inside. An ingenious exercise in illusionism, its buoyancy departs from Hirst's usual preoccupation with death. And Gary Hume, whose paintings in household glass are also showing at White Cube, copies a famous 15th-century Flemish portrait only to deface it with yellow paint.
South London Gallery, Peckham Road, London SE5 (0171-703 6120), until May 14; **White Cube**, Duke Street, London, SW1 (0171-930 5373), until May 13.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

CLERKS (18): Last year's comic hit of the American independent scene takes us through a long day in the life of Dante, a cash register clerk in Leonardo, New Jersey. "I'm not even supposed to be here today!" he bleats. Customers act up. His personal life unravels. A corpse is found in the toilet. And Randal, master of insult at the video store next door, keeps butting in. Kevin Smith, the 23-year-old director, filmed this cheaper-than-cheap feature after hours at his own workplace. Technically rough, but the grainy images never hide the rude wit, or the memorable portraits by local actors of a reckless young generation.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **Metro** (0171-437 0757); **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636), **Trocadero** & (0171-434 0031), **Renoir** (0171-837 8402).

BRITISH MUSEUM



A medieval panel painting of an angel, rescued from Henry III's Painted Chamber at Westminster

LITTLE ODESSA (18): Another young American, 24-year-old James Gray, shows his mettle in this vivid drama about the Russian immigrants of Brooklyn's Brighton Beach. The film — more family saga than a gangster shooting match — is sometimes muddled and pretentious. But Gray shows astonishing authority for a new director: actors such as Vanessa Redgrave, Maximilian Schell and Tim Roth fail to unnerve him.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096), **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148), **Screen/Hill** & (0171-435 3366); **Warner** & (0171-437 4343).

● *More films, page 6.*

DANCE

John Percival

BALLET PRELJOCAJ: Angelin Preljocaj's short visit to Sadler's Wells last year won an Olivier nomination; he returns with the works that proved popular then, plus others in two programmes. The first (Tuesday 9, Thursday 11, Saturday 13 evening, and Sunday 14) features his tempestuous treatment of Stravinsky's *Les Noces* together with the British premiere of his latest creation, *Petit Essai Sur Le Temps Passe*. Programme two (Wednesday 10, Friday 12, Saturday 13 matinée), combines the duet *Trait d'Union*, and his reinterpretation of *Le Spectre de la Rose* with a reworking of one of his earliest pieces, *Larmes Blanches*.
Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000), Tues 9 to Fri 12, Sun 14, 7.30pm; Sat 13, 3.30pm and 8pm. &

BRUCE TIMES TWO: Christopher Bruce's son, Mark Bruce, makes his British choreographic debut to complete this year's Spring Loaded Festival at The Place. He and five other dancers perform *Love Sick* to live music for guitar and percussion. A week later, Rambert Dance Company gives two of Christopher Bruce's most popular works, *Swansong* and *Rooster*, at Swindon, together with the world premiere of *Jupiter Is Crying* by the Swedish choreographer Per Jonsson to a specially composed score by Sven-David *Sandström*.
The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), Thur-Sat, 8pm. **Wyvern Theatre**, Swindon & (01793 524481), Wed 17 to Sat 20, 7.30pm.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE: Frank Marcus's portrait of the breakdown of a lesbian marriage seems as wise, witty and melancholy a comedy as it did in 1965. That is largely due to Miriam Margolyes, seriously funny as the butch actress about to be written out of *The Archers*-type serial that has made her a national name.
Ambassadors, West St, London WC2 (0171-836 6111). Evenings, Mon to Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; matinées: Thur, 3pm; Sat, 5.30pm.

DEALER'S CHOICE: Have we discovered a British David Mamet? Substitute the fetid basement of a London restaurant for the American's low-life lairs, and maybe so. Patrick Marber's astute comedy, just transferred from the National, draws you into its small world of gamblers and poker games, power-plays and petty betrayals.
Vaudeville, Strand, London WC2 (0171-836 9987). Evenings: Mon to Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; matinées: Wed, 3pm; Sat, 5pm.

● *More theatre, page 6.*

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

THE PEARL FISHERS: Bizet's treasure-trove of great tunes (never mind the plot, or in this case the dotty production) might almost have been composed for Opera North: their darkly glittering Victorian theatre is the perfect size, and their eager young chorus and orchestra lash into the melodies with infectious enthusiasm. Their truffle-hound casting experts have come up with an outstanding French baritone, André Cognet, and if Maria D'Aragnes does not exactly give the impression of a chaste Celanese priestess, she sings nicely and looks very, very French. Arthur Davies roars gently as any dove in the tenor role, and the whizz-bang conductor is Dietfried Bernet. Two hours of pure, undiluted musical pleasure.
Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0113 244 0971/245 9351), Fri 12, 7.15pm. &

COSI FAN TUTTE: Last chance to catch the English National Opera's fresh, sparky revival of Mozart's comedy, which in Nicolette Molnár's hands manages to be quietly funny without ignoring the dark undertones. Rita Cullis and the accomplished American tenor Charles Workman lead the young cast, and Nicholas Kok conducts a fleet, light-fingered account of the score. The ENO at its best.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), Fri 12, 7pm. &

ROCK

David Sinclair

KIRSTY MACCOLL: Never the most confident of stage performers, Kirsty MacColl can nevertheless boast one of the more distinguished repertoires in pop. Her best songs — gushingly described by Johnny Marr as having "the wit of Ray Davies and the harmonic invention of the Beach Boys" — have been collected on her current album, *Galore*, which is still in the Top 20, two months after its release.
Redcar Bowl & (01642 480636), May 7; **Garage**, Glasgow & (0141-332 1120), May 8; **UEA**, Norwich & (01603 505401), May 10; **Roadmender**, Northampton & (01604 604222), May 11; **Corn Exchange**, Cambridge & (01223 463204), May 13; **Leicester Arena** & (0116 2555576), May 14; **Manchester University** & (0161-275 2930), May 15; **Town and Country**, Leeds (01532 800100), May 17; **Sheffield University** & (01742 724076), May 18; **Wulfren Hall**, Wolverhampton & (01902 312030), May 19; **St David's Hall**, Cardiff & (01222 371236), May 21; **Pyramid Centre**, Portsmouth & (01705 826666), May 22; **Forum**, London NW5 & (0171-284 2200), May 23.

BOYZ II MEN: Boyz II Men are the black American equivalent of our own, dear Take That, which makes this belated British concert debut something of an event. Superb singers with a wealth of material ranging from barbershop harmony routines to swingbeat, the Boyz combine modern techniques with the poise and showmanship of traditional R & B acts. As this is their only scheduled appearance in Britain, it is a show that should not to be missed.
Hammersmith Apollo, London W6 (0181-741 4868). May 11.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

YO-YO ON THE UP: That ebullient Chinese-American cellist Yo-Yo Ma virtually takes up residence at the Barbican over the next few days, hosting five concerts that show off his manifold talents. First comes the supreme test of technique and interpretative depth: Bach's Cello Suites (Wednesday, 6.30pm). On Friday (7.30pm) he plays the Elgar Concerto with the LSO under Sir Colin Davis, and on Sunday 14 (3pm) he leads a children's concert. Next week, rather more unexpected sides: with *Nashville Strings* he explores the bluegrass tradition; then, with the London Classical Players, he takes up period instrument and style for Brahms and Beethoven.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891). &

FRISCO SOUNDS: One of the biggest success stories in American music has been the alliance of Herbert Blomstedt with the San Francisco Symphony. Blomstedt may not be the most charismatic maestro in the world, or even in San Francisco, but he can certainly prepare and rehearse a top-quality performance. Now he is moving on, so this European tour is a valedictory effort. It parades the orchestra in ripe Romantic scores by Nielsen, Sibelius and Strauss.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Tues 9, 7.30pm.



Yo-Yo Ma is at the Barbican

JAZZ

Clive Davis

JOHN SCOFIELD: While Pat Metheny has broadened his appeal by tapping into the soft-rock audience, John Scofield is surely the most exciting of contemporary guitarists. Harder-edged than Metheny's dreamscapes, his compositions carry off the difficult trick of combining cerebral improvisation with the more elemental thrust of rock and blues. *Hand Jive*, his last album for Blue Note, was his funkiest effort since 1986's *Blue Matter*, thanks in no small part to the wailing sax of Eddie Harris. Harris is absent from the current line-up, but Scofield still has Larry Goldings on keyboards.
Newcastle Jazz Festival, The Playhouse, Newcastle & (0191-230 5151), Thur 11, 7.30pm; **Leeds International Music Festival**, Civic Theatre, Cookridge St & (0113 247 6962), Fri 12, 7.30pm; **Jazz Café**, Parkway, London NW1 & (0171-916 6000), Sat 13, 9pm.



Funky guitarist John Scofield

COURTNEY PINE: The tenor-toting figurehead of the 1980s jazz revival has passed through his out-and-out Coltrane phase, and is currently devoting his thoughts to fusing jazz and hip-hop. His band tops the bill on Monday, the second day of the Barbican's free Bank Holiday festival, appearing opposite David Jean Baptiste. Keith Tippett's group Mujician and the more lyrical saxophonist Julian Argüelles. Tomorrow will be given over to more mainstream tastes, ranging from the Echoes of Ellington Orchestra to the 100 Club All Stars, The Great British Jazz Band and the insouciant partnership of Tommy Whittle and Barbara Jay.
Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), tomorrow, 12.30pm to 5.45pm; Mon 8, 12.30pm to 5.30pm. &

CHILDREN

LONDON

Watch Shakespeare's Globe Theatre being re-built and buy your own batch of thatch which is being used by restorers to roof the arena. Marvellous, on-the-spot English and history lesson in one.
The Globe, New Globe Walk, Bankside SE1 (0171-928 6406). Today, tomorrow and daily, 10am to 5pm. Adults £4, children £2.50.



A thatcher at work on the roof of the Globe Theatre

Ian Saville's Magic Show for Kids is the title of this hour-long performance of magic, clowning, ventriloquism and illusion. Lots of audience participation.
Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Today, 2.30pm. Adults £3.50, children £1.75.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Family Roller Skating Games with prizes and music; also Kidz Club for junior (and adult) learners.
Rollers, Denbigh North Leisure Estate, Bletchley, Milton Keynes (01908 366440). Today from 12.30pm for games (Kidz Club starts at 10am), and tomorrow from 10am. Adults £3.25, children £2.75.

CHESHIRE

Meet Four New Baby Penguins: Plus the first tapir to be born at the zoo (looks like a pig with humbug camouflage stripes); and two baby orang-utans. Also children's farm.
Chester Zoo, Upton by Chester (01244 380280). Today, tomorrow and daily from 10am. Adults £7, children £4.50. &

DERBYSHIRE

Can You Recognise an Oak Tree or a Beech? Learn about different species of trees. Also demonstrations of steam-driven rack-saws; wood turning and stick making.
Elvastan Castle Country Park and Working Estate Museum, Borrowash Road, Elvaston, Thulston (01332 571342). Sunday from 10am. Adults £1.20, children 60p, family £3 (two adults and two children).

NORTHANTS

Bring Your Favourite Soft Toy for a Sponsored Parachute Jump (organisers strap a mini parachute to its back); also children's fun fair; and Punch and Judy.
Lamport Hall, Lamport, Northampton (01604 642185). Tomorrow and Monday from 10am. Adults £2.50 (includes entry to craft fair), children free. &

SCOTLAND

Explore a Child-sized "rabbit burrow" and handle young chicks in the wild bird hatchery. See also wallabies, llamas and other animals.
Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre, Glascorrie Road, Comrie (01764 679469). Today, tomorrow and every day from 10am. Adults £3.50, children £2.50, Under 4s free. &

SUSSEX

Tightrope Walking, juggling, acrobatics at the Cirque Surreal, to music by Rick Wakeman.
Preston Park, Brighton (01260 276627). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Adults from £8. Children from £6. &

WALES

Family Fun Day: Meet Postman Pat and Fireman Sam; try your skills at archery.
Dyffryn House and Gardens, St Nicholas, Cardiff (01222 593328). Tomorrow, 11am. Adults £2, children £1.50, family £6 (two adults and two children). &

Children's Circus, Face Painting and Games at the May Fair.
Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff (01222 569441). Today, tomorrow and Monday from 10am. Adults £5, children £2.50. Under-5s free. &

JANE BIDDER

● *Further Bank Holiday listings, page 23.*

Ruth Gledhill visited the church of St Giles in Cheadle, built by Augustus Pugin

AT YOUR SERVICE



FATHER Bede Walsh, in hotel management before he entered the seminary at 23, smiled sweetly before launching into the liturgy. The prospect of two readings, a gospel, homily, two baptisms and a eucharist before him had only increased the bounce and energy of a delivery which seemed none the worse for his return from a holiday in France at 3am that morning. "God our Father, may we look forward with hope to our resurrection, for you have made us your sons and daughters and restored the joy of our youth," he said, eyes twinkling. Indeed, the whole of his faintly rotund body sparkled, vested as he was with the ornate gold chasuble worn by Bishop Nicholas Wiseman, who later became Archbishop of Westminster, for the consecration of this church, the priceless gem of Augustus Pugin, the Gothic Revival architect. Pugin converted to Catholicism in 1835 and believed a decline in the arts was the result of the spiritual decline caused by the Reformation. Celebrations are being planned for the church's 150th anniversary next year.

This richly ornamented church has a congregation of 450 each week at its two Saturday and Sunday masses. Of 16 servers assisting the priest, about six were girls, introduced last year after the Vatican said this was in accordance with Catholic teaching. We sat at the back of the church in front of the choir, who led us in the first verse of the popular evangelical hymn *Majesty*, while priest and servers processed up the aisle and stopped beside us. Everybody turned towards the gospel for the reading, from John 21, after which Fr Bede and his attendants processed back down the aisle to the next verse of *Majesty*.

Fr Bede did not climb into the carved pulpit, hewn in one block from the quarry on the nearby Alton estate, but arrived at it from some inner sanctum by a back door. "With the baptisms we can see literally that Jesus is about new life in Christ. Resurrection is about living out our new life in friendship with Christ," he said. "We welcome these children into the family of God by placing on their forehead the sign of the Cross, a small but important gesture of our faith." He asked God "to help these children be strong" should the "shadow of the Cross" fall upon them during their lives.

Pugin had already been commissioned by the 16th Earl of Shrewsbury to design alterations to the nearby Alton Towers, now a theme park, when the Earl asked him to build a church for Cheadle also. He intended it to be "a memorial for future ages". Visitors sometimes speculate on what Pugin would have made of the modern Alton Towers, where he designed the chapel roof. The chapel was until recently used to house a model railway but today, in contrast to Cheadle, it stands as empty as a tomb.

Over the chancel at Cheadle is a painting by Hauser of the *Doom of Judgement*, and it was here that the two babies, Charlotte May Heath and Anthony David Allen, swathed in white robes and anointed with oil before the sermon, were brought by parents and godparents to the font. Fr Bede confronted the entire congregation with his questions. "I therefore ask all of you, do you reject Satan?" "I do," we responded. "Do you believe in God the father, almighty creator of heaven and earth?" He invited the children in church to go to the font during the baptism itself, pouring water over the heads of the babies, who remained silent throughout. "If you want to know how I do it, I use cold water and they never cry," he explained, leading us into the offertory hymn, *The King of Love My Shepherd is*.

For the eucharist he moved with the servers behind the ornately carved rood screen to the sanctuary. To end, he lit baptismal candles from the Easter Paschal Candle, hand-painted by a Benedictine Monk, sending the babies out into the world to be a light to Christ and "dispel the seeds of gloom and darkness".

Roman Catholic parish church of St Giles, 19 Chapel St, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST10 1DU. Tel: 0850 592307.

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Bede Walsh.

ARCHITECTURE: Described by its architect, Augustus Pugin, as "the only perfect revival that has been accomplished" and "Cheadle, *perfect Cheadle*, Cheadle my consolation in all afflictions." ★★★★★

HOMILY: Fr Bede took advantage of a Christening in our midst: "Today in baptism, God promises new life." ★★

MUSIC: Mix of ancient and modern hymns led by plain-clothes choir. ★★★

LITURGY: Standard modern Catholic mass enhanced by the romance of the environment and the infectious enthusiasm of the priest. ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee and church gossip in the shop bought three years ago by the church. The shop pays for Fr Bede's mobile phone and other modern ministerial essentials. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Where Protestants can meet an exquisite nemesis. ★★★★

★ stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

JOEL CHANT



Father Bede Walsh, vested in gold chasuble, celebrating mass

'Pedigrees as a rule, where furnished at all, are usually of the most sketchy description ... "A large house in the country" may mean anything from a Stately Home to Maidstone Jail'

Continued from page 1

remark comes to mind: "Pedigrees as a rule, where furnished at all, are usually of the most sketchy description... 'A large house in the country' may mean anything from a Stately Home to Maidstone Jail."

A furniture expert will usually look for a label or stamp, usually in the form of a brand. As, with only a few exceptions, English 18th-century furniture, unlike French, is usually anonymous, there has been little temptation to fake such details, but a stamp may reveal later manufacture. Fine pieces of furniture in 18th-century styles were made in the late Victorian period by firms such as Holland and Holland and Edwards and Roberts, who did use stamps, and their pieces are now much sought after.

Then an expert will ask more general questions: does the piece look right for the period from which it purports to come? There are no such things as Queen Anne sideboards, Georgian coffee tables or miniature tallboys, but that has not stopped fakers supplying such pieces.

Some items of furniture are so desirable, and therefore so fakable, that they will always be questioned: a complete, large (anything over six) set of matching dining chairs, for example, is often original only in part, so some may either be later copies or they may have been heavily restored around one small original fragment.

Given that the piece is, in theory, genuine, does it look old? Or, as a dealer would say, does it have a good patina — that surface quality which only time can give? Has it been well-polished over the years? If so, dust will have been worked into crevices, giving them a darker look than the highlights.

Be suspicious if the surface is too uniform: people usually regularly polish only the tops of furniture, so if the legs of a table have exactly the same appearance as the rest, something may be wrong.

Look, too, for areas of wear — at the bottom of a grandfather clock, for instance, where people's feet will have knocked it, or the carved ends of chair arms, where hands will have rubbed them smooth.

Clever fakers can imitate all this, of course, and it is said that once they would lend their pieces to hotels or restaurants, where, in a few weeks, they would receive enough wear to look old.

Damage was often faked. Sometimes the faking was based on the theory that a buyer would notice an obvious flaw, and would be so reassured when the crooked dealer offered to repair it for nothing that there would be no further examination.

Worm holes were supposedly imitated by a drill or, according to popular legend, a blunderbuss, but the straightness of the hole would have revealed such fakes, as worms curve about in search of the softest wood. A good faker would use worm-eaten timber. Cescinsky remarked: "An old worm-eaten piece of wood, if left in the dark with a pantechnicon full of modern furniture, from February to June, will 'antique' the lot."

Wear can be too easy to imitate. As Michael Cowley, head of the furniture department at Phillips the auctioneers, points out, some old oak furniture has been "distressed" too much to be convincing. "You sometimes see the stretchers of chairs and tables which have been artificially curved in a completely unnatural way," he says.

Even if the components of a chair or whatever look old, stop to ask if the piece can have been "improved". Few good fakes are made from scratch but consist, instead, of old pieces altered to make them more valuable.

In general, the more elaborate the decoration on a piece, the more desirable it was, and this was especially true in the mid 19th-century, when a richly ornamented look was fashionable. Modest pieces of early furniture were often recarved. Mr Cowley recalls being shown a Victorian photograph of a country-house carpenter standing with his chisel in front of an Elizabethan overmantel which he had just finished "improving". Today, such a piece of carving can easily pass as original.

Simple pieces of Georgian furniture may also have been embellished at a later date. Be suspicious if, for example, the carving on the knee of a table leg looks shallow: it might suggest that the piece was originally plain. If the carving stands confidently proud of the surface it will probably be original. Decorative metal mounts might have been added, or more elaborate locks or hinges substituted for simple originals.

Surface decoration, such as painting or marquetry, might be added later, and here it needs practice to distinguish the often free decoration of an original Georgian piece from its suaver Victorian imitation. In the 19th century, use of mechanical tools allowed greater technical perfection than was possible in anything except the grandest 18th-century pieces.

Centuries of polish, regilding and repainting can often make it hard for even an expert to detect tampering to an original piece at a superficial glance. So always look at the wooden surfaces that have no finish — inside or behind a piece of furniture — as these will often reveal more than the surfaces that are meant to be seen. If any of them have been covered, suspicions may be aroused. For example, if there is paint covering the back of a gilt Georgian mirror, a type of furniture notorious for being altered frequently, dealers will at once be on their guard.

Look at the joins: are the dovetails, for example, all of the same type, or a mixture, implying that changes have been made?

As small-scale furniture is eagerly sought after, "cutting-down" is common, converting a large 17th-century walnut clothes press, for example, into a much more desirable small cupboard. Often, the market will favour a piece which furniture historians would deplore: Mr Cowley recalls the enthusiasm in the saleroom for an early 18th-century Italian giltwood console table that had obviously been much reduced in size, whereas an untampered example would probably have proved harder to sell. So, if you buy big pieces, you are more likely to get originals.

Other technical points to look out for — such as the correct thickness of wood for a particular period, the evidence of hand tools being used, and the difference between machine-made and hand-made screws and nails — are not matters on which an amateur can easily draw the right conclusion. Good fakers reused old hand-made nails, and the presence of screws in a piece of furniture made before about 1670, when they were first introduced, certainly indicates later repair or alteration, but not necessarily any intention to deceive. If a screw or nail is old, it will usually have oxidised, staining the wood brown.

Today, museums and collectors are beginning to develop a more relaxed attitude to fakes, which are now seen as objects of interest in their own right. In London, the Victoria and Albert Museum has for long had a gallery devoted to fakes from its own collection, and in 1990 the British Museum mounted an exhibition of fakes, which included many embarrassing objects banished to the storerooms.

Where do you start if you want the reassurance that something is genuine? However newly sophisticated our attitude to forgery may have become, the question "real or fake?" is still an important one.

Even experts may fall silent here: a survey of the history of fakes shows that the question is often impossible to answer. We like to assume that with the passage of years a fake will inevitably reveal itself and that, if it does not, scientific tests will provide a definitive answer. It now seems hard to understand that anybody was taken in by Piltdown Man or the letters written by Mary Magdalene to Lazarus, which were "discovered" in France in the 19th century and fooled many scholars before somebody asked how they came to be written in French.

Yet we still do not know whether a document as celebrated as the supposedly medieval "Vinland Map", which depicts part of America, is a fake or not, despite the scientific and scholarly tests that have been applied to it, and furniture provides equally baffling puzzles.

In the mid-19th century, Henry Cole, the director of the V&A, persuaded the Government to buy the huge collection of Renaissance antiques formed by a French lawyer, Jacques Soulanges. This included several pieces of elaborate French and Italian furniture which, in the course of this century, raised such doubts about their authenticity that in the 1950s several were deaccessioned as "fakes".

Although assumed to have been made up in the 1830s from genuine old fragments and new carving, it has proved almost impossible to determine when and how this furniture was made, and it now seems likely that one of the deaccessioned pieces was genuine.

If the experts cannot tell, what hope is there for the rest of us?

When asked this question, Mr Cowley was reassuring. "Out-and-out fakes are rare. What a collector has to learn is to distinguish untampered originals from altered pieces and reproductions."

A good grounding in furniture history is essential, especially as it provides guidelines about the origin of fakes and imitations. Until the 18th century, the sort of antiquities collectors wanted were the relics of the Classical past dug up in Italy, and from the 15th century onwards there was an enormous trade in fake Roman sculpture, jewels and coins. But in the 18th century, when collectors became interested in the British past, connoisseurs, such as Horace Walpole, attempted to furnish their Gothic Revival homes with medieval and Tudor furniture.

A lot of what Walpole bought was of far more recent origin, but he would no doubt enjoy the fact that a collector who today bought a bogus piece of Elizabethan furniture that had once belonged to him would have something more valuable than the genuine item.

Spotting something that was evidently produced with deception in mind is not easy. People have often bought pieces of furniture known to have been drastically altered just because they liked the result. Authenticity did not matter much, just as people who buy Rolex watches or Chanel No 5 from a pavement seller in the high street know that they are not likely to be getting the real thing: they are happy with something that gives the appearance of being real. That is why fakes are so revealing about the past.

Today's fakers no longer have the techniques or time needed to produce Classical busts or Chippendale commodes. Backstreet forgers' workshops, which once were busy dipping "old" oak furniture in baths of acid and beating it with chains to imitate the wear of centuries, have long ago been given over to the manufacture of "Vuitton" luggage and "Cartier" watches. In the 20th century, a bogus trademark is worth as much as a bogus antique.

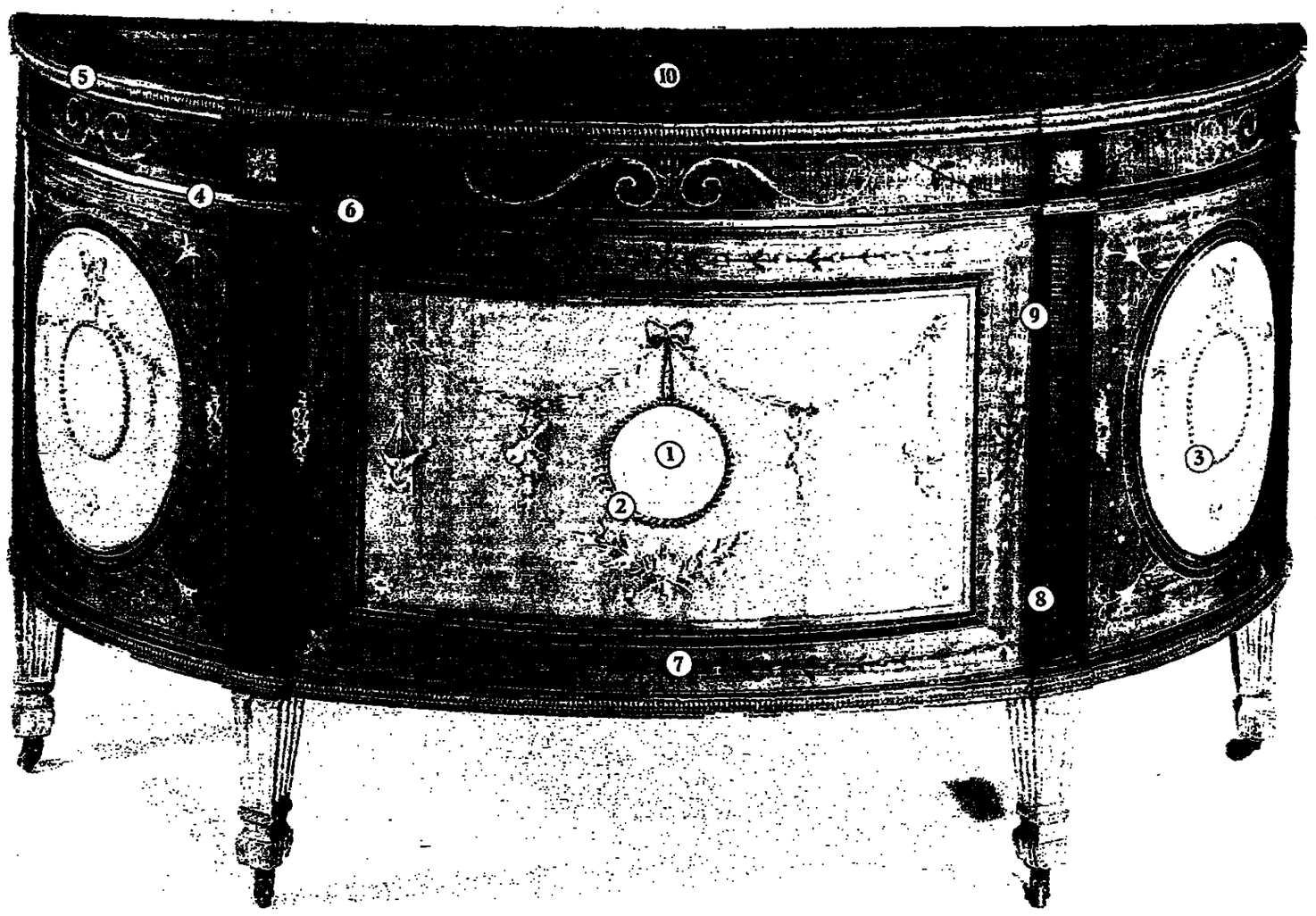
Banknote forgery appears to be another growth area, as the haul of almost perfect bank notes — with a face value of £18 million — made in London two weeks ago indicates.

Once, American collectors were fooled by fake Colonial furniture: now they, and we, have to be equally wary of such things as fake Apple computers.

Future historians may find "Georgian" coffee tables and video cabinets — yes, they do exist — as fascinating as Walpole's "Tudor" furniture. So, as long as you like it, perhaps you should not worry too much about the surprisingly cheap Queen Anne sideboard you bought recently. It might not be authentic, but something much more interesting instead.

● *The author is the architectural editor of* Country Life.

● *Lucy Wood's book,* The Lady Lever Art Gallery: Catalogue of Commodes, *is published by HMSO in association with NMGM, price £50.*



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

THE two commodes, above and below, from the Lady Lever Art Gallery, Liverpool, appear at first glance to be 18th-century antiques, and were bought as such at the turn of the century by Lord Leverhulme. However, the top one, with the Wedgwood medallions, is a fake — an amalgamation of two or three pieces of furniture.

Here are some of the details which proved that Leverhulme's purchase — valued in 1904 at £450 — was not all it appeared to be.

1 Medallions of Bacchanalian boys are 19th-century copies of a design executed by Wedgwood in 1779.

2 The medallions are crudely cemented to the doors.

3 Expert opinion of the medallions casts doubt over the whole of the green panels inset into the doors.

4 Doors have a different curvature to the rest of the piece, and this curvature cannot be accounted for by warping.

5 The exterior mouldings, such as the gilt band along the top of the frieze rail, have been crudely ebonised

6 The nail marks visible on the under side of the frieze rail suggest that the rail once belonged to a different piece of furniture.

7 The marquetry on the doors is not as fine and fluent as that on the top.

8 Some of the screws attaching hinges are modern, others 19th century.

9 Hinges are 19th century, though not replacements.

10 The inside of this commode reveals a crude all-over pink wash — probably an attempt to conceal the different woods used in the construction.



THIS commode, one of Lord Leverhulme's more successful purchases (made on June 3, 1918), was probably the work of Mayhew and Ince about 1775-80. It was valued in 1906 at £400. However, as Lucy Wood, a commode expert at the Lady Lever Art Gallery, says: "It is far easier to say what is wrong with a piece than what makes a piece right." This particular piece of furniture has a clearly documented provenance; the construction is near perfect and in keeping; there is no colour wash on the inside of the commode; the top is more faded than the sides; and all the marquetry matches

Cover concept by MARTIN HARRISON
Photography by RAY MAIN
Computer simulation by
ANDRE LOCKYER
Picture of commodes on this page
by courtesy of
LADY LEVER ART GALLERY,
LIVERPOOL

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Thursday 11 May 7.30 pm	THE PARLEY OF INSTRUMENTS Peter Holman dir; M Bennett, M Laird trumpets, P de Bruine oboe Suites, Sonatas & Symphonies by Eccles, Corbett, Matteis, Pallisible, Barrett, Pfeiger, Croft & Bebell £12, £10, £8, £6	Early Music & Baroque Series British Library Stefan Zweig Series Anglo-European Arts
Friday 12 May 7.30 pm	STEVEN ISSERLIS cello PASCAL DEVOYON piano Fauré: The two Cello Sonatas; Elégie Op. 24, Sicilienne Op 78, Sérénade Op 98, Papillon, Romance Op 69, Saint-Saëns: Sonata No 1 Op. 32 £14, £12, £9, £6	French Season Fauré 150th Anniversary Concert Wigmore Hall
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Tue 9 May 7.30	SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY Herbert Blomstedt (cond) Nielsen Little Suite, Sibelius Symphony No.6; Strauss Also sprach Zarathustra £30, £23, £17, £12, £7	Harrison/Parrott Ltd/*SBC
Wed 10 May 7.30	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (cond) Della Jones (mezzo) Mozart Sym No.36 (Linz); Maxwell Davies Stone Litany; Mendelssohn Sym No.3 (Scottish) Spons: Independent Insurance. £15, £12, £9, £7, £5	*RPO Ltd
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APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6063 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

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RIVERSIDE 0171 420 0100 or 0181 741 2255 FINAL WEEK OF: 'Extraordinarily powerful' Ind THE LIBERATION OF SKOPJE with Vanessa Redgrave & Rade Serbedzija CASEMENT 'Strongly recommended' Ind WATERFALL 'Brilliant...not to be missed' Gdn NEXT PRODUCTIONS: From 9 May Al-Kasaba Company in THE IMMIGRANTS/THE OPTIMIST (in Arabic) From 11 May Ekkehard Schall in ANTIGONE (in German)

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Not a lot of people wish to know this

WEEK IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

To prevent loyal readers from slipping peacefully towards early brain-death, I declare this column to be totally free of the following ingredients:

a) Miss Joanna Lumley receiving her OBE;

b) The National Lottery;

c) Dame Vera Lynn;

d) Those Red Rum 30th birthday presents in full.

Which leaves what? Well, from the "truth is more implausible than a Jeffrey Archer thriller" department of *The Times* I have acquired the following esoteric nuggets of information, which I hope will bring a little joy to your Bank Holiday weekend. Anybody who doubts the thesis that life — and more particularly, the less exalted regions of the entertainment industry — is indeed a rich and unexpected tapestry, read on! The rest of you can move swiftly to the sports pages, where I trust that a full analysis of those Red Rum birthday presents may be acquired from a team of top experts.

Congratulations, firstly, to the New London Orchestra for devising this year's most original excuse. You have to admit it, "Devaluation of Mexican peso delays premiere of flute concerto" is the work of genius. That is the headline over promotional material explaining the circumstances of the orchestra's May 18 concert in St John's Smith Square. And like all the best excuses it is so unlikely that it might just be true, although I still prefer the bleak headline in an East Anglian newspaper a few years ago: "Wife used manuscript of new novel as lining for hamster cage, claims local author".

Speaking of hamsters, the "world's first all-animal comedy series" is about to descend on us. And please don't say that you can watch Question Time from the House of Commons if you want to see that sort of bestiality. I am referring to the new Channel 4 series *Squawkie-talkie* — a title that perhaps indicates the level of humour to which we must become accustomed.

"Creators John Sparkes and Pete Baikie have spent two years grappling through an undergrowth of natural history footage," a Channel 4 spokesperson enthuses with lyrical fervour. "The hybrid of comedic scripts and natural footage has been born." Good to know that Channel 4 is still providing sophisticated programmes for discerning viewers.

Shall we turn our minds to even higher things? Namely, *Elvisly Yours*, which is nothing less than the forthcoming British tour of the "Elvis Presley Museum USA". Curiously, in view of its title, the museum seems to be located in Sweden, and is actually owned by the ex-president of the Swedish Elvis Presley Fan Club. Never mind! Memphis wasn't built in a day.

The tour opens, perhaps a shade unpromisingly, not at the V&A or one of the swankier Bond Street galleries, but at the Lewisham Centre in south London. It will include such priceless relics as Elvis's football, Elvis's karate belt, Elvis's boots and shirts, Elvis's last motorbike and, most intriguingly, a "gun given to his doctor". For what, exactly? Perhaps the answer lies in Lewisham.

Meanwhile, a treat for our Woking readers. When *The Rocky Horror Show* opens there next week the cast will include not only that urbane compere of ancient radio quizzes, Nicholas Parsons, but also the Olympic skating champion, Robin Cousins. Or as Woking's New Victoria Theatre proudly proclaims: "Robin Cousins will be swapping his ice skates for suspenders." That's showbiz for you. Triple toe-loops today; cross-dressing with Nicholas Parsons tomorrow.

And while we are on musical matters, may I give advance warning to the citizens of Birmingham? Their beloved Symphony Hall will soon be hit by, in the words of the excited promoter, "20 Grand Pianos! 60 Pianists!! 120 Hands!!!". All those pianos, all those hands and (not least) all those exclamation marks will be assembled in the autumn for the British premiere of a *Grand Piano Symphony* by the American composer John Kozar. "Never in living memory has a musical event of this scale or nature been attempted in Britain," says the promoter, and for once I think that this is not too far from the truth.

In fact, this is going to be the year in which the music business finally turns topsy-turvy. The latest statistics, for instance, reveal that Melody Radio — the station that plays non-stop Mantovani, Glenn Miller, Andy Williams and the less excitable kind of country ballad — is now attracting almost as many listeners in the 15-24 age range as among over-35s.

Why? Is it another disturbing sign of gormlessness among Generation X? Nobody knows, though you will doubtless hear much vintage waffle in the coming months as pop sociologists attempt to explain the phenomenon.

Meanwhile, desperate classical-music promoters are devising increasingly wild stunts to attract punters to symphony concerts. The latest wheeze is an event called "The Classic", which takes place in Wembley Stadium on July 22. To pep up those boring old arias and symphonies, the promoters have organised "flypasts, marching bands, American cheerleaders, parades of animals, 100 riders and horses, lasers and fireworks." Just like the Wigmore Hall, then.

Finally, good news and bad news for Mstislav Rostropovich. He has been awarded Sweden's most prestigious musical honour. On Tuesday, he will receive the 1995 Polar Music Prize from the King of Sweden himself. That's the good news. The bad news is — so will Elton John.

Ah well, that puts the greatest instrumentalist of our age firmly in his place. As someone once said, it is a funny old world. And did I ever tell you about the 30-year-old horse who has received birthday presents from all over Britain?

Desperate cry of the lonely

THEATRE: At the Cottesloe **Benedict Nightingale** applauds *Skylight*, David Hare's strong new drama

DONALD COOPER



Edging towards love: Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in *Skylight* at the National

This is not one of David Hare's big, thundering works, like his law-and-order jeremiad, *Murmuring Judges*, or his lament for Kinnock, *Absence of War*. It is an intimate piece with more than passing resemblances to his *Secret Rapture*. It, too, is much preoccupied with love and the elusiveness of happiness. It, too, has a heroine whose unpretentious decency makes others feel rebuked.

Even if it were not superbly acted by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams, *Skylight* would have a distinctly Chekhovian feel. Especially in Act II, it is as if Lopakhin, the restless businessman of *The Cherry Orchard*, were thrust into an argument with Astrov, the idealistic but embattled doctor of *Uncle Vanya*. One rather large difference is that Tom is an English restaurateur and, in deference to progress, Kyra a woman teacher in the East End. A still bigger one is that, until Tom's wife found out, the two of them were having a love affair.

The setting is a tacky, wintry flat off the North Circular that, as someone says, "has indoor fog". Williams's Kyra lives here without complaint, to the incomprehension of Gambon's Tom, who feels that she is squandering her intellect on no-hopers and, with his wife dead of cancer, wants to reactivate their life together. That is also the wish of his 18-year-old son (Daniel Betts), who launches Richard Eyre's production by appearing from nowhere to complain that loneliness has turned his father into "a stupid animal, licking his pain".

So he has, too. When Gambon makes his first entrance on a National Theatre stage for eight years, my instant feeling was, God, he's let himself go. Beneath the slick grey hair, the face seems coarser, the body more bloated, giving the impression of an over-the-hill Incredible Hulk. His words are in line with his looks, too, being full of sub-Osbornian bile about soulless bankers, the death of enterprise, and the ills of his adolescent son. But then the face reddens, bunches, collapses in helpless tears, and you see the man's desolation.

Old Father Time, never a friendly force in Hare's plays, has again turned optimism into baffled confusion. The confident 1980s tycoon is at sea professionally and emotionally in the 1990s. It is powerfully yet subtly done, and there is more to come. We hear less of Tom's guilty, dissatisfied bluster in Act II, and more of Kyra's obscure struggles in her sink school. At one point she angrily launches into the most articulate defence I have heard of the professions it is fashionable to sneer at: social workers, counsellors, probation officers, "those who try to clear out society's drains".

A sign that, however personal Hare's concerns, he never loses sight of the political dimension? Certainly. An example of the priggishness of which he has sometimes accused himself? Not at all. For proof of that you need only listen to the counter-arguments Tom is allowed to put — among them the possibly unfair claim that Kyra finds it easier to give herself momentarily to a cause than full-time to a person — and watch Williams at work. Behind that furrowed, offputting brow and puckered, upright mouth, you are never in doubt that there are currents, swells and surges. It is a fine, strongly felt performance — and a strong, finely felt play.

Stravinsky Staged

Saturday 6 May 1995

The Royal Opera House deeply regrets that the mixed programme to be given by The Royal Ballet this evening has had to be cancelled.

Patrons will be entitled to a full refund and should contact the Box Office on 0171-304 4000 for further information.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE Covent Garden

BILLY BUDD BRITTEN



POP: **John Street** on The Charlatans

Indolent charm

IT MUST be galling to be a Charlatan. When people recall the Manchester scene — Madchester, as it was dubbed — of the early 1990s, they remember the Stone Roses and the Happy Mondays. But the Charlatans were just as successful. And now they are on to their fourth album, and still denting the Top 30. They plough on, reassured by a following large enough to sell out several venues on this tour, including the first of two London dates (May 11 and 12).

At the UEA, Norwich, they amble on stage to play a series of R & B anthems to indolence. Singer Tim Burgess moans and sneers, slurring lyrics over the elongated rhythms of Martin Blunt's bass and John Brookes's drums. *Can't get out of bed* makes it clear where they stand on the Protestant work ethic.

They may praise laziness; they don't practise it. The set is animated by Rob Collins's stunning performance at the keyboard. The finest moments occur when he and guitarist Mark Collins bounce phrases off each other like a bickering couple.

While these two grab the musical attention, most eyes focus on Burgess. He may not always have the firmest grip on the notes, but he is hard to ignore. With high cheekbones and full lips, he pouts and looks aggrieved, never quite losing our sympathy, if never quite convincing us of his suffering. It is a fine, if familiar rock pose, and one that guarantees the Charlatans their supporters.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

NEAL FOSTER



Age: 29

Profession: Actor-manager

Where? Foster has single-handedly resuscitated the Birmingham Old Rep Theatre. Celebrated actors from Laurence Olivier to Derek Jacobi walked the boards of this vintage venue, which was built in 1913. But when the Birmingham Rep Company moved home, the old place vanished into obscurity for 20 years. Foster currently runs the Birmingham Stage Company there, producing and acting in everything.

How did he manage it? In order to raise the money that he needed to reopen the theatre, Foster took the bull by the horns and doorstopped the stars. Although he was fresh out of drama school, he managed to persuade everyone from Judi Dench to Dustin Hoffman to be interviewed by him live at the Young Vic and then at the Playhouse in London's West End.

What does the Old Rep put on? Foster embraces classic, contemporary and children's plays, with a popular dedication to Roald Dahl. He has an eye for crowd-pullers, bringing Richard Dreyfuss to the United Kingdom to direct *Hamlet*, which certainly packed them in even if Dreyfuss did a fairly dire job. At the age of 24 Foster himself wrote and directed a spoof *Hamlet* which went to the West End for a Christmas run. He is back in London with his current production *Crystal Clear*, which has just transferred to the King's Head.

His history? "I declared that I was going to act when I was eight years old. I went to Warwick University for seven weeks. But it was when I was studying *The Entertainer* in the library that I simply thought I should be doing this, not reading it." Between swapping to Bristol Old Vic Drama School, Foster set up a touring company. After drama school, the company needed a home. "I discovered the Old Rep and persuaded the City Council to let me in."

Why an actor-manager? "My ambitions are simple, but they are very difficult to achieve. I just want to be in good plays with good people. It's a terrible profession I'm in: being an actor, you have no control over your career. If you have specific goals, such as working," he laughs, "you have to do it any way you can. Also, normally when you are in a play, there is a sense of a void afterwards. Whereas as an actor-manager there's an enormous feeling of achievement."

How ambitious is he? "If I ended up at the Old Rep for the next 30 years, that's fine as long as I am able to do what I want to do. I suppose you could say that I'm determined."

KATE BASSETT

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Value three antiques to win £1,000

Everyone enjoys trying to guess the value of rare collectibles. Play the antiques game in The Sunday Times and your skill could land you a cash prize. Study three auction items selected and described by Hilary Kay — a director of Sotheby's and one of the experts on television's Antiques Roadshow. Estimate how much the items sold for then simply phone in your answer and you could be on target for a £1,000 prize

See the Style section — The Sunday Times tomorrow

The new "Mark XII" stands the test of time



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IWC introduced the smaller Mark X, intended also for military use, at the end of the 30's. The stylised 'king's arrow' identified the watch as one made specially for the British forces.
The Mark XI appeared in 1948. Selected for issue to RAF pilots, it became the most celebrated and sought-after of all IWC's pilot watches.
For those of you who have never enjoyed the pleasure of owning a Mark XI, we are pleased to announce a worthy successor.
The Mark XII is a marriage of classic design and modern watchmaking technology. Like its predecessor it has that soft iron inner case, making it virtually impervious to magnetic fields. Inside, there is the superb 884 calibre automatic movement, adjusted in five positions.
The Mark XII features a date display with rapid adjustment, a stopwatch second hand and a 45 hour power reserve. With a screw-in crown, the Mark XII is fitted with a sapphire glass (hardness coefficient 9) and is water-resistant to 50 metres. You have the choice of hard-working matt stainless steel or elegant 18ct gold.


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WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◧ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'** Exhilarating song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on feet.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

☐ **CASEMENT**. Conn Redgrave in the title role of Alex Ferguson's play. The public servant who exposed colonialist horrors in the Congo and was executed to preserve British rule in Ireland.
Riverside Studio 2, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255) Tonight, 8pm. Sun, 4.30pm. Final week.

☐ **DESIGN FOR LIVING** Rachel Weisz, Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's ménage à trois comedy. Sean Mathias's award-winner, with even more sexual rough and tumble than at the Donmar.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm ♿

☐ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI**. Juliet Stevenson and Simon Russell Beale in Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the borderland of the mind. Philip Franks directs Greenwich Theatre's sell-out success.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1746) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE**. Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about bravely facing death. Interesting and finally touching as it shows the effects, ill and good, of emotional restraint.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◧ **INDIAN INK**. Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Margaret Tyzack in Tom Stoppard's latest, wittily, poignantly, exploring aspects of Anglo-Indian resentments and respect.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **JEFFREY**. Christopher Villiers plays a New Yorker tuned in to total abstinence; eight other actors play 42 of his friends and connections. Tim Luscombe directs Paul Rudnick's Off-Broadway hit.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) Now previewing, 7.45pm, opens May 9

☐ **THE MAIDEN STONE**. Rona Murray's puzzler, where wild, 19th century road travellers and theatrical hopefuls meet up with Old Nick. A good cast somewhat lost in the storm.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm ♿

☐ **THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR**. Terry Hands's first production here. Denis Quilley plays fat knight and Richard McCabe an insanely jealous husband.
National (Olivier), South Bank SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm, Mon, 7.15pm. ♿

☐ **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**. Adrian Noble's richly beautiful production from last year's Stratford. The outstanding cast includes Alex Jennings, Stella Gonet, Desmond Barrit, Barry Lynch.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight-Thurs, 7.15pm; mats today and Thurs, 2pm ♿

☐ **THE MILL ON THE FLOSS**. Three actresses (Anne-Marie Duff, Catherine Cusack and Helen Schlesinger) play the heroine in Shared Experience's acclaimed production. Helen Edmundson adapts, Nancy Meckler directs.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 1.30pm and Sat, 2.30pm. ♿

☐ **ONE FINE DAY**. Joe McGann's compelling performance as a devoted dad caught up in a child-abuse case. Dennis Lumborg's engrossing one-man play.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) Today, 5pm and 8pm. Final performances.

☐ **OUR BOYS**. Jonathan Lewis's searching and often funny drama set in a military hospital where the soldiers start questioning the army's commitment to them. Nike Turner directs.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm ♿

☐ **THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS**. Joe Dowling's all-Irish production of O'Casey, acclaimed on tour and in London for six weeks.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5510). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **THE SILVER TASSIE**. Sean O'Casey's fierce and haunting anti-war drama, not seen in London since 1969. What happens to a Dublin soccer hero after he volunteers in 1914. Lynne Parker directs a large cast.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Now previewing, 8pm, opens May 10. Until June 24 ♿

■ **SIMPATICO**. Powerful acting in Sam Shepard's first play for a decade: a shared secret from long ago connects two men now living very different lives. Not vintage Shepard but incisive and gripping.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until May 27.

☐ **VICTOR AND THE LADIES**. Rudolph Walker plays a widower with 18 daughters and many other women keen to be with him, Paulette Randall directs a comedy by Jenny McLeod, said to shake the PC bastions of feminist good taste.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) Now previewing, 8pm; opens May 8. Until June 10 ♿

☐ **A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**. David Thacker's acclaimed production, with Bernard Hill superb as the NY longshoreman consumed by unspeakable love for his niece.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) Tue-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 2pm; Sat and Sun, 3pm.

☐ **WHAT I DID IN THE HOLIDAYS**. Philip Osment's compassionate study of chaotic family life, set in Devon in 1963. Mike Alfreds directs for Cambridge Theatre Co.
Drill Hall, Cheries Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270) Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until May 13 ♿

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia** Haymarket (0171-930 8800) ◧ **Buddy** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . ☐ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . ◧ **Crazy for You** Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . . ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (0171-494 5070) . ◧ **Grease**, Dominion (0171-416 6060) ☐ **Mama I Want to Sing** Cambridge (0171-494 5080) ☐ **The Mousetrap**, St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . ☐ **My Night With Reg**, Criterion (0171-839 4488) ☐ **A Passionate Woman** Comedy (0171-289 1731) . . ☐ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) ☐ **The Woman In Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

CLERKS (18) See Critics' Choice, page 2.

◆ **I.D.** (18) Undercover cop becomes football hooligan. Simplistic sometimes powerful British drama. Philip Davis directs. Reece Dinsdale, Richard Graham and Claire Skinner.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** ♿ (0800 888997)

LITTLE ODESSA (15) See Critics' Choice, page 2.

MILK MONEY (12) Child believes lart a perfect match for his widowed dad. Forgettable comedy with Melanie Griffith and Ed Harris. Richard Benjamin directs.
Plaza (0800 888997) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

THE STEAL (PG) Dismal British comedy-adventure with Alfred Molina and Helen Slater as accomplices in computer theft. Director, John Hay.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE** (15) A teenager's postwar theatre experiences. Fascinating abrasive drama from Beryl Bainbridge's novel. Mike Newell directs. Alan Rickman, Hugh Grant and Georgina Cates.
Empire (0800 888911) **MGM Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636)

BEFORE SUNRISE (15). Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy walk and talk in Vienna. Risky, endearing film from Slacker director Richard Linklater.
MGM Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

LE COLONEL CHABERT (PG) Stodgy presentation of a good Balzac yarn about a man thought dead trying to reclaim his past. With Gérard Depardieu and Fanny Ardant.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (18): A decent transfer of Ariel Dorfman's play, but a cramped, impersonal film for Roman Polanski. With Sigourney Weaver, Ben Kingsley, Stuart Wilson.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

◆ **DUMB & DUMBER** (12) Idiotic, good-natured comedy that outstays its welcome. with Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels. Director, Peter Farrelly.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

BEFORE SUNRISE (15). Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy walk and talk in Vienna. Risky, endearing film from Slacker director Richard Linklater.
MGM Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **LITTLE WOMEN** (U). Fresh, tender, feminist version of the 19th-century classic, with Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon, and Gabriel Byrne.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279)

◆ **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE** (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer, with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

MRS. PARKER AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE (15). Alan Rudolph's melancholy and witty portrait of Dorothy Parker and her era. Compelling performances from Jennifer Jason Leigh and a well-chosen cast.
Minema (0171-235 4225)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **DISCLOSURE** (18) Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore. Superficially enjoyable version of Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Director Barry Levinson.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

EXOTICA (18) Inventive variations on the theme of voyeurism from quirky Canadian director Atom Egoyan. With Bruce Greenwood, Mia Kirshner.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Renoir** (0171-637 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

HOOP DREAMS (15). Marvellous documentary by Steve James, Fred Marx and Peter Gilbert about two inner city kids and their dreams of playing professional basketball.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279)

◆ **LEGENDS OF THE FALL** (15). Bogus epic about a Montana family early in the century. With Brad Pitt, Aidan Quinn and Anthony Hopkins. Director, Edward Zwick.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **LITTLE WOMEN** (U). Fresh, tender, feminist version of the 19th-century classic, with Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon, and Gabriel Byrne.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279)

◆ **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE** (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer, with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Phoenix** (0171-369 1721) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **MURIEL'S WEDDING** (15). Ugly duckling becomes swan. Boisterous, queasy Aussie comedy. P.J. Hogan directs. Toni Collette, Bill Hunter and Rachel Griffiths.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915853) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

NOBODY'S FOOL (15). Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith, Bruce Willis and Jessica Tandy.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683)

◆ **ONCE WERE WARRIORS** (18). Forceful New Zealand tale of Maori culture ravaged by the urban ghetto. Lee Tamahori directs a powerful cast.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DALMATIANS** (U): Disney's pleasant, witty cartoon version of Dodie Smith's book about endangered puppies, first released in 1961.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914665) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **OUTBREAK** (18) Taut virus thriller that turns silly. With Dustin Hoffman and Rene Russo and Morgan Freeman. Director, Wolfgang Petersen.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

QUIZ SHOW (15) Director Robert Redford resurrects a TV scandal of the late 1950s. Fine performances (John Turturro, Ralph Fiennes, Paul Scofield), but not enough bite, or relevance.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION** How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Director, Frank Darabont.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

STARGATE (PG) Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun; Roland Emmerich directs.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031)

THIN ICE (12): Gauche but sweet British film about lesbian ice-skaters. Fiona Cunningham Reid directs. Charlotte Avery and Sabra Williams.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

Come to the playground

Helen Gould finds plenty of topical issues being tackled at this week's Festival of Theatre for Young People

Performing a play called *Sex Acts* with 16-year-olds is guaranteed to grab attention, and it certainly did at a school gymnasium in North London. A gang of youths burst through the doors with high expectations, and were a mite disappointed to find London Bubble Theatre Company holding forth on the issue of safe sex.

But such is the pulling power, these days, of educational drama. Teachers have scrambled just as eagerly — though perhaps with less libidinous expectations — to watch the first London Festival of Theatre for Children and Young People this week.

Tickets for all four days of workshops and shows at the Oval House in Kennington sold out two weeks ago. But this is far more than a peep show of extra-curricular activities in school gymnasia. For teachers, it is a chance to see before they buy. For artists, it is an opportunity to compare notes and approaches in what has become a highly specialised field.

Each year in Britain, more than a million youngsters aged between three and 21 watch performances by about 300 companies. *Sex Acts* is one outstanding illustration of how this kind of work is influencing a new generation. Like racism, drugs and the environment, sex education is currently one of the "buzz" issues that gets bums on seats.

The story is nothing if not issue-led. Selina is 16 and pregnant. Should she have an abortion, as her mum suggests, or keep the baby as her boyfriend wishes? Paul discovers his ex-girlfriend has HIV. Is he infected, and should he confess to his new girl? Using forum-theatre techniques, London Bubble encourages its audience to step into the characters' shoes and resolve these dilemmas. No wonder kids love it. It's like asking them to write and perform *Brookside*. It leads to some magic moments too. "One actor has to come in with a bunch of flowers. Although we tell the students to respond to the performers non-violently, he frequently gets hit over the head with them," says the director, Sally Goldsworthy.

"We were doing it in a health clinic the day after Valentine's Day," she recalls. "There was a girl of 14 or 15 with a tiny baby. You could see her tension mounting as Selina's boyfriend walked out on her. When we asked her to step in, she said: 'No, but that's my story.' "

Eric Cantona would have been perfectly cast in *Kicking Out*, also on at Oval House this week. Arc Theatre Ensemble was commissioned by Leyton Orient Football Club to produce this tale of a soccer team riven by racial prejudice. It is the stuff of Nike adverts, but 13-year-olds love it.

Safe sex and social realism have not forced Shakespeare off the scene, however. The Bard has simply been changed with the times, to make it more accessible to an audience better acquainted with Harrison Ford than *Hamlet*. One example of how: in West 28th Street's *Macbeth*, at Oval House, the eponymous murderer sports a baseball hat and carries a ghetto-blaster.

No longer is Shakespeare just for GCSE students. Companies such as Buttonhole Theatre are increasingly performing his works in primary schools. It may not be long before we see Shakespeare for the under-fives: toddlers are a rapidly growing market sector. "People used to think that these children didn't even know which end of the room to look at, yet alone watch theatre," says Tim Webb, artistic director of Oily Cart, a leader in the pre-school drama field.

"We started working with them and found that they can take more than fluffy bunnies." Fun though they are, for many youngsters these shows are an experience which long outlives the duration of the performance. They are a first taste of live theatre. They often become a focus of the school term and a platform for course work. For some they may be the only outlet for self-expression, too.

As part of the festival, Oily Cart is staging a two-day residency at the Shelley School, a south London centre for children with severe learning difficulties. Participatory sessions are designed to stimulate the senses. Aromas will be waved under young noses, fans and feathers will tickle, and pupils will be rocked gently to music.

As a measure of the growing popularity of children's theatre, the Royal Mail has recently issued stamps featuring one company, Pop-Up Theatre. Two more festivals are planned this year, in Barrow-in-Furness and Hartlepool. But until recently the picture had not looked so rosy. "The radical changes in education over the past ten years have threatened work between professional artists and schools," explains Sarah Argent, director of the Association of Professional Theatre for Children and Young People. For the 300 companies that remain, this Festival marks an upturn in their fortunes and a public celebration of survival.



The Pop-Up group with the stamp issued to mark the popularity of children's drama

New Wave is just like the old days

ALL this week's VE-Day nostalgia reminds us of the importance of radios as the voice of wartime Britain. So much of what was happening reached into people's homes through those fretworked cabinets; the voices of Chamberlain, Churchill, the King, Lord Haw-Haw, the V-chords of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and the bells of VE-Day. In most homes these days, though, radio lingers on as a shrunken old veteran. Those tones once as warm and mellow as the walnut cabinet have shrivelled to a piping portable or radio-alarm, or a tinny teenage blaster. At best radio gets tacked onto the hi-fi; at worst, relegated to the car.

It is no accident that some manufacturers are now producing Forties-style table radios. But these hardly do justice to today's digital stereo broadcasts. What we need to enjoy radio as radio again is not a revival, but a renaissance. A fascinating example of this is now available — at a price.

The Wave radio comes from the American company Bose, whose home cinema system we looked at recently. Founded by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology electronics professor, it specialises in original approaches to sound reproduction, always interesting even when not convincing. The Wave is particularly impressive. Its design is neatly contemporary, a smallish wedge, 14 inches across and 4.5 inches high. Its wide front has a digital clockface, flanked by two speaker grilles. A control panel runs across the top to the vented rear which contains the aerial, power and sockets for other equipment. The effect is pleasantly unobtrusive. The real surprise comes when you turn it on.

The sound that emerges has the expansive presence of the old days, coupled with thoroughly modern dynamic range and clarity. It seems improbable that such a tiny box can yield such full tones, using only two 2.5 inch speakers. The secret is the waveguide for which it is named, an acoustic labyrinth similar to those used in some hi-fi speakers. This is folded inside the case behind the right-hand speaker, capturing and reverberating the sound. The upper ranges are also clear and forward, and you can turn the volume surprisingly high before any serious distortion becomes noticeable. On sustained listening one notices how carefully the sound has been "tailored", sounding dry and boxy occasionally, but this is judging it by the highest standards. On two of the most demanding tests for any hi-fi, the male speaking voice and the solo piano, the natural sound was quite enough to delight most listeners. A portable CD player (or any other good sound source) can be connected to those rear sockets.

FUTURE VISIONS

The controls allow you to set six preset stations and two alarm times. Best of all, the controls are reproduced on a remote control the size of a credit card and not much thicker. This is a model of clear and easy operation that shames most others, as is the instruction book. It has to be said that the Wave would gain from using a better FM aerial than the dinky little dipole wire supplied (the power cable doubles as another). The excellent sound mercilessly exposes signal hiss and interference, and also the way the signals of some broadcasts are compressed to suit car radios.

Bose sell the Wave only through their mail-order advertisements, which offer a fortnight's home trial without mentioning the price. Evidently they believe that once awakened by the Wave's dulcet tones, you will pay a swingeing £330 rather than part with it. Personally, I feel that even for this original little jewel the price is too high — and it is higher than the American price.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

Genius on tour

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

HAILED by the critics as one of greatest achievements by America's finest living playwright, the National Theatre production of Arthur Miller's *Broken Glass* recently won the Olivier Award for Best Play. Now *Broken Glass*, the powerful and darkly humorous story of the effect a woman's sudden paralysis has on her panic-stricken husband, is going on tour. Theatre Club members can see the play at the following venues:

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IF THE PLAY'S NOT THE THING, THERE'S DANCE TOO

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Bush Theatre
May 10-June 3
● TICKETS £6 (normally £9.50) to see *True Lines*, an electrifying journey around the world. Tel 0181-743 3388

Tricycle Theatre
May 9-12
● JENNY McLEOD'S *Victor and the Ladies* is a hilarious sex comedy. Tickets £3.75 Mon-Wed (normally £7.50); £4.75 Thurs, Fri (normally £9.50). Tel 0171-328 1000

EDINBURGH
King's Theatre
May 16-17
● A HILARIOUS new comedy of camping folk, *Bare Necessities* stars Geoffrey Hughes, Karen Archer and Jeffrey Holland. Tickets half-price (normally £9.50, £10.50 and £12.50). Tel 0131-220 4349

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Playhouse
May 16
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7.50) for Terrence Rattigan's comedy *While the Sun Shines*. Tel 0191-252 3505

BUXTON
Opera House
May 16-20
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50 plus) to see Georg Buchner's classic drama *Woyzeck* (May 16-17) and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (May 18-20). Tel 01298 72190

MOLD
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May 9-13
● STARRING Kathryn Hunter and Marcello Magni, Tennessee Williams's *The Rose Tattoo* is a beautifully observed comedy. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £10, £13 and £15). Tel 01352 755114

LEICESTER
Haymarket Theatre
Until May 13 (Mon-Thurs evenings)
● KATE JOSETTE, James Macpherson and Alfred Marks in Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Tickets £7.80 (normally £12). Tel 0116-253 9797

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May 9-13
● FROM the author of *The Buccaneers*, Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* is a brilliantly satirical portrait of a society driven by ruthless materialism. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £13.50). Tel 01242 572573

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● THE Kosh Dance company presents *Circuit Breaker* and *Upstart*. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £7.50). Tel 01444 456111

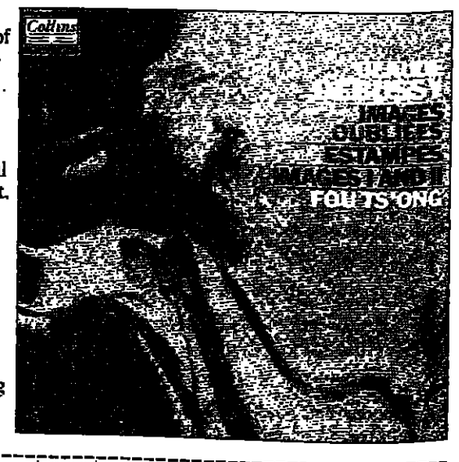
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RECORDINGS: Hard-edged guitar sounds; an industrial earful and an epic baroque opera

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ **ERROLL GARNER**
Magician/ Gershwin and Kern
TelArchive CD-83337★★
A PLAYFUL double serving of Garneriana from the 1970s, the second instalment of reissues from the pianist's Octave label. *Magician* is the more erratic of the pair — *It Gets Better Every Time* is punchy original blues, but the treatment of the modern pop tunes *I Only Have Eyes For You* and *Close to You* veers towards the lush and formulaic, especially with the insistent Latin percussion lurking in the background. *Gershwin and Kern* come off better in a fascinating display of melodic legerdemain, most of the fun and games concentrated in the impromptu prologues to the main themes.

□ **DIANA KRALL**
Only Trust Your Heart
GRP Records 98102★★★
THE lady will go far. GRP, you will recall, is the company that foisted the brassy Diane Schuur on an unsuspecting world. Superficially at least, the Canadian singer Diana Krall comes out of the same school, combining blue-eyed soul with a sleek line in piano accompaniment. But where Schuur slips so predictably into vocal histrionics, Krall is a much cooler and more sophisticated talent: like Rickie Lee Jones or her acknowledged favourite Carmen McRae, she smoulders. The pianist Jimmy Rowles has acted as her mentor, which is the highest possible recommendation. Her flawless choice of songs (*Broadway, I've Got The World On A String*) and the guest appearance by the soulful tenor saxophone of Stanley Turrentine thrive on Tommy LiPuma's crisp, uncluttered production values.



Walker: surreal cacophony

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

■ **SCOTT WALKER**
Tilt
Fontana 526 859★★
SCOTT Walker's first album in 11 years is a shocker. At a time when popular taste has broadened to accommodate all kinds of "difficult" artists and apparently *outré* musical styles, who would have thought it would take an old heart-throb from the Sixties to demonstrate what individuality of expression is really all about?

With his voice set against a stark, semi-orchestral arrangement on the opening track, *Farmer In The City*, Walker, who once studied the mysteries of Gregorian chant, sounds like a medieval monk singing a canticle. Although it is the most accessible of the nine songs (all written by Walker), the number is both unforgivingly severe and gripped by a morbid chill.

The Cockfighter, which follows, is a truly nightmarish piece of work. Propelled by cacophonous bursts of clanking, industrial noise, its typically surreal lyric juxtaposes images of beauty with a dark hint of some vile unpleasantness. By this point, however, any lingering hopes of hearing a conventional tune — let alone a chorus — on this deeply perverse album have been dashed, and the listener will either find himself being sucked into an eerie vortex of madness and despair or reaching for the eject button.

Those who persevere will discover that the brooding sense of melodrama only increases, through numbers which include *Manhattan* (featuring Brian Gascoine thundering away on the church organ of the Methodist Central Hall), *Bolivia '95* and the title track, which features a scorched-earth guitar solo by David Rhodes, a sonic assault which sounds almost conventional in this context.

POP SINGLES

David Sinclair

■ **THE RAKE'S PROGRESS**
Cheese Food Prostitute
Almo Sounds ALMO 001★★
THE Rake's Progress come from New York where they have been scuffling around the East Village/college circuit for five years. But their hard-edged guitar-pop sound and neatly clipped songs such as *We're So Cool* and *I'll Talk My Way Out Of This One*, suggest a band well equipped to make common cause with the bright young guns on the British scene.

Despite its useless artwork and tacky title, *Cheese Food Prostitute* is a promising six-track debut which scores points for its perky attitude and the sheer variety of songs — from the light, funky riff and crinkly guitar interplay of *Protect Me From Me* to the belting, four-on-the-snare beat of *Along Came Mary*. The Rake's Progress, incidentally, start their British tour on Tuesday at the Borderline, London WC2 (0171-734 2095).

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **NICOLAI**
The Merry Wives of Windsor
Donath/Ahnsjö/Brendel/ Ridderbusch/Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra/ Kubelik
Decca 443 669-2 (2 CDs)★★
A WELCOME back to the CD catalogue for *The Merry Wives*. It is needed there not least because our leading opera companies continue to steer clear of it, frightened, presumably, of unfavourable comparisons with Verdi's *Falstaff*. But Nicolai's comedy needs to be known beyond its overture. Its jollity may be a bit Germanic, with Falstaff more of a Baron Ochs than an English gent, yet it is compact and fast-moving. Properly, it reaches its climax in the final Windsor Forest scene which provided most of the material for that overture.

For a time EMI's classic version, led by Gottlob Frick as Falstaff and Fritz Wunderlich as Fenton, was available on CD, but that has long gone. Decca's version can field no such stars but its cast, drawn mainly from regulars at the Bavarian State Opera at the time of the recording (1977), is very respectable. Falstaff makes his first entry in a blaze of brass and Karl Ridderbusch's cavernous bass responds in kind. He suffers Falstaff's indignities with good humour, including a second non-Verdian visit to the Ford house, where he has to escape like Toad of Toad Hall dressed as a old woman. A mid-price issue.

□ **GOUNOD**
Faust
De los Angeles/Gedda/ Borthayre/Christoff/Paris Opéra Orchestra/Cluytens
EMI CMS 5 65256 2 (3CDs)★
A CURIOSITY. In the 1950s, EMI allowed itself the luxury of two recordings of *Faust* using the same conductor (Cluytens) and the same trio of principals — de los Angeles, Gedda and Christoff. The second for a time became a favourite in the catalogue, but this is a reissue of the lesser-known first version. Much of its quality is due to the disarming and consistently fluent Marguerite of de los Angeles, who has no trouble at all with the glitter of the *Jewel Song*. Gedda, who had not even made his Paris debut at the time of the recording (1953), sounds almost impossibly young as Faust, but the promise is very audible in his Act III cavatina.

Two of the best contributions come from Jean Borthayre (Valentin) and Martha Angelici (Siebel), who were replaced in the second recording. Cluytens's conducting is assured, if not inspiring. Sound quality: moderate.

CELLO

Hilary Finch

■ **FAURE**
Complete Works for Cello
Isserlis/Devoyon
RCA 09026 68049 2★★★
WITH celebrations of Fauré's 150th anniversary going strong in Manchester and London, Steven Isserlis's new disc of the composer's complete Cello Music is nicely timed. What is more, the works for cello straddle the turn of the century when Fauré's best-known music was first written.



Isserlis: Good timing

They look back to the full-hearted song of the 1880 *Elégie*, and the popular *Sicilienne* of 1893, played with winsome nonchalance by Isserlis and pianist Pascal Devoyon. And they look forward to the two great Cello Sonatas: the war-haunted First of 1917, dislocated of rhythm and uncertain of harmonic reference, and the Second, written in his seventies.

The recital is framed by two versions of the *Romance*: the humming salon piece of 1894, and the first recording of its original version for cello and organ (Francis Grier). In between come Isserlis's airborne performances of the little *Papillon*, and the tiny *Allegro Moderato for two Cellos* (with David Waterman).

□ **STRAUSS/MAHLER/ SCHNITTKE**
Piano Quartets
Gothoni/Lubotsky/ Hirvikangas/Rousi
Ondine Ode 840-2★★
TWO useful miniatures from two grandmasters of the mega-work. Both Richard Strauss and Gustav Mahler wrote Brahmsian piano quartets as students (they both later regretted it), and this quartet of one Russian and three Finnish musicians gives both a passionate advocacy.

Strauss's C minor Op 13 is in the best tradition of steamy late romantic chamber music, with fascinating little glimpses, in a solo violin phrase here or a harmonic turn there, of operatic things to come.

Mahler's unfinished A minor Piano Quartet is far harder for the innocent ear to identify.

BAROQUE

Stephen Pettit

■ **CHARPENTIER**
Médée
Hunt/Padmore/Deletré Zanetti/Salzmann/Les Arts Florissants/Christie
Erato 4509-96558-2 (3 CDs)★★★
BY NOW one would hope that this epic work, composed in 1693, is firmly established as a great opera. As if to prove the point, William Christie and Les Arts Florissants have just released their second recording of the piece, a project which signifies their debut on the Erato label.

The performance is a wonder. The cast is headed by Lorraine Hunt, who gives a wholly unfettered account of the role of Medea, beguiling us with the rich, flexible qualities of her voice as well as through her powerful dramatic sensibilities. Mark Padmore is marvellous as the initially somewhat cocksure Jason, and Monique Zanetti gives an affecting account of the vulnerable Creusa. The playing is stylish and deft, while Christie directs with his usual insight and love.

■ **CAVALLI**
La Calisto
Bayo/Lippi/Keenlyside/Pushee /Concerto Vocale/Jacobs
Harmonia Mundi HMC 901515.17 (3 CDs)★★★
IN A sense René Jacobs's version of Cavalli's magic comedy *La Calisto*, composed in Venice in the early 1650s, does to the opera what Raymond Leppard's version did in the Seventies. It takes the bare bones — often just melody and bass line — which is all that the surviving score offers and clothes it in rich apparel. The effect is of a wondrous fantasy, but it differs from Leppard's invaluable version both in its stylishness and in its theatrical spontaneity.

The singing and acting, given such freedom, are accordingly and wonderfully spirited. Brilliant.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **BRUCKNER**
Symphony No 8
NDR SO/Wand
RCA Victor Red Seal 09026 68047 2 (2 CDs)★★★
THIS is the fifth in the priceless series of live recordings of Bruckner by Günter Wand with the NDR Symphony Orchestra (Hamburg). No one collecting the series is likely to be disappointed by this issue, which delivers a deeply considered, structurally convincing account of Bruckner's masterpiece, yet one of elemental force.

There is in fact a question mark over whether Bruckner's music was intended to have quite such a monumental feel: there is a strong possibility, according to some scholars, that we are experiencing Bruckner through a filter of Nazi veneration. But Wand's conducting of other repertoire is marked by such weightiness, of course, and the integrity of his reading just about puts such considerations out of mind.

□ **LISZT**
Piano Concertos Nos 1&2; Les préludes; Mazeppa
Orchestre de la Suisse Romande/Järvi
Chandos CHAN 9360★★
THERE are a good number of mood changes to be negotiated in both works, and it is the strength of the performance from pianist Geoffrey Tozer that display is only one element: they are also faithful to shifting emotional states.

The fillers are a couple of symphonic poems — *Les préludes* and *Mazeppa* — both significant works in their own right. Given admirable performances, they make up an attractive disc for Liszt enthusiasts.

NEW ON VIDEO: Michael Austin's lavish period piece, two Hitchcock shorts and a slice of Italian life



Phoebe Cates is an exotic and enigmatic character from the Far East, but is she the Princess Caraboo, or an imaginative imposter?

■ **PRINCESS CARABOO**
Entertainment, 18, 1994
IS Phoebe Cates's enigmatic young lady — all regal smiles, haughty flounces and bizarre foreign words — a true princess from a Far Eastern island? Or is she an imaginative imposter? Since the question is never hard to answer, Michael Austin's lavishly appointed soufflé, based on a true story of 1817, contains little drama. But lively performances, droll dialogue and exotic costumes provide many incidental pleasures. The extravagant cast includes Jim Broadbent (very funny), Kevin Kline, Wendy Hughes and John Lithgow. Available to rent.

■ **DEAR DIARY**
Artificial Eye, 15, 1994
REFRESHING, free-wheeling journal on film from actor-writer-director Nanni Moretti. In the first part, he rides around Rome on his scooter, musing on the city, his childhood and cinema; in the second, he hops islands, searching for quiet. In the third, darker section, he undergoes chemotherapy. Not every moment works, but there is a genuine charm to Moretti's wry comments on life and its imperfections.

■ **HITCHCOCK AT WAR**
Academy, PG, 1944
THESE two French-language shorts are footnotes to Hitchcock's career, though their curio value is considerable. Made for the Ministry of Information, their aim was to encourage the Resistance movement in France and her colonies. *Bon Voyage*, the more interesting of the pair, traces the zigzag route of an escaped RAF air-gunner from his German prison camp to London. *Aventure Malgache* documents the formation of a Resistance group in Madagascar. The Hitch of the famous thrillers pokes through from time to time.

■ **PATTON**
Fox, PG, 1969
ASKED for his opinion on Morocco, General Patton remarks, "I love it. Excellency. It's a combination of the Bible and Hollywood." So, in a way, is Patton himself. George C. Scott's barnstorming manner found a perfect outlet in Franklin Schaffner's biography of this controversial general of the Second World War. The film's size suggests an ordinary epic but Scott's performance, the clever script and Schaffner's sharp eye turn it into an exceptional, intelligent drama. Available in a widescreen print.

■ **THREE COLOURS: RED**
Artificial Eye, 15, 1994
KRZYSZTOF KIESLOWSKI ends his colour trilogy, and supposedly his film career, with a compelling jigsaw puzzle showing how the lives of two students and a retired judge in Geneva intersect. Every shot quivers with meaning, pushing the characters towards their destinies. If Kieślowski's style seems over-dry at times, the performances of Irène Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant as the warring student and the judge whose relationship mellows into affection give the film a strong emotional core.

■ **VANYA ON 42ND STREET**
Artificial Eye, U, 1994
ADAPTED by David Mamet, *Uncle Vanya* is enacted in street clothes in the crumbling remains of the New Amsterdam Theatre, New York, a potent metaphor for Chekhov's theme of lives in decay. Wallace Shawn's squawks as the indolent Vanya prove tiresome at times, although he never shatters the balance and precision of the fine cast gathered by stage guru André Gregory. Under Louis Malle's restrained direction, cinema meets theatre in a rare embrace.

GEOFF BROWN

pelléas and mélisande DEBUSSY

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A cave man with a modern accent is giving gardens an unusual and attractive highlight

Grottoes made simple

MARIANNE MAJERUS



A grotto suggested by a cut-out arch backed by mirror glass and framing a frostwork urn in lead and plywood

To many people, the word "grotto" evokes the image of a hidden, cave-like place — amorphous, organic, blending into the landscape. Many grottoes in Britain are like this, some designed in the 18th century when the "natural" landscape movement was at its most fashionable.

This was not the only style, however. There were also formal, architectural grottoes or nymphaeums: classical structures owing more to inspiration of the Roman architect Vitruvius than the influence of nature.

Such structures were part of the concept of the garden as theatre, an idea which George Carter, a Norfolk-based garden designer and grotto maker, follows. He combines the historical with the pragmatic, and has designed 16th-century knot gardens and 18th-century parterres in kit form, with plants and instructions.



George Carter's plywood grotto

He has also designed imaginative structures, such as the classical grotto he built at Barham Manor in Suffolk, for Charles Fenwick of the Chelsea Gardener store in London, and the miniature one for his brother's garden at Isley Walton Manor in Leicestershire.

Grotesque motifs colour the rest of his design work. The fountain at Pallant House in Chichester, West Sussex, is ornamented with frostwork and undulating ribbons of lead which, like streams of water, trickle down the sides of a garden pavilion.

Water was an integral element of the 17th-century grotto; it gushed from fantastical fountains and spurted from hidden jets to take innocent visitors unawares. Mr Carter is fascinated by the technology behind such special effects, and says that the grottoes of Italy and France were display cases for the ingenuity and innovation of Renaissance engineers, who invested enormous much technological effort into hydraulic aesthetic effects.

Such grottoes were not confined to the Continent. At Enstone in Oxfordshire, Thomas Bushell, Francis Bacon's eccentric secretary, built a grotto and water works where the effects included "Thunder and Lightning, Rain, Hail-showers, Drums beating . . . the Dead arising".

The Enstone Marvels, as they were known, were pure theatre, and theatrical representations were staged there, with special effects, music and poetry.

Although in aqueous terms Mr Carter might not go as far as Bushell, he is experimenting with 20th-century technology to recreate some of the more splashy effects of the past. For example, in front of the Barham Manor grotto he has installed some Bushell-esque hidden water jets, which deliver spectacular, shimmering crescents of water, based on the simplest of systems. "The jets were made with ordinary agricultural machines normally used for irrigating fields. Used in the garden, the base structure can be hidden by plants, and the sweep, size and timing of the water arc can be adjusted at will, introducing the unexpected and the random."

Another Bushell-esque effect with which Mr Carter is experimenting uses pierced, drip-feed hose. "Instead of having the hose on the ground dribbling water into the soil," he says, "you can hide it somewhere in the grotto — above the entrance, perhaps — so that it produces a soft curtain of rain from an unseen source."

Lighting in and around early grottoes was, of necessity, basic. But today the possibilities are endless, and cheap. Mr Carter says. "Garden lighting, particularly in this country, is underused, yet simple halogen spots cost about £5 and can be used with effect to highlight any particular features."

And why not use fireworks, as people did for 17th-century village fêtes? Outside the entrance to his brother's 7ft by 5ft grotto, made of flint set in a wooden surround, Mr Carter tried such pyrotechnics at a winter party. "I think fireworks should be used more often at night to pick out architecture and garden features," he says.

The basic design of a Carter grotto is always architectural in concept — "If they are just organic growths, they look a mess." This insistence on structure may have its roots in Mr Carter training as a sculptor, though some of the materials he favours, such as concrete, are more building site than studio.

He likes the heavy textures and surfaces that can be achieved: for example, by flints set into the face of a concrete block. Mr Carter uses the blocks with the flints facing forwards, a look which evokes the rusticated banding on architectural grottoes. He also casts flints into curved blocks of concrete to make rounded niches and arches. Sometimes, he uses wooden poles with the bark still on, cut lengthways and nailed to the façade of a building, giving an instant rustic grotto effect.

Should all this construction sound too complicated, or expensive, Mr Carter also makes false grottoes ("garden faces"), which are flat-faced architectural frontispieces used to terminate vistas or hide an unfortunate view. Made of timber, or occasionally of masonry, they are *trompe-l'oeil* in relief.

"The more fanciful the design, the better," he says. "A nymphaeum, temple or triumphal arch can often be scaled down to good perspective effect." At Barham Manor, he built such a façade in front of a 4ft-deep wall niche.

Admirers of grottoes, he says, are those who do not think that gardens are essentially about plants, but who are interested in the architecture of the garden.

A grotto can be perceived as a building, he adds, and planning permission may be needed. "A timber structure, possibly categorised as a shed, might not require permission, but a masonry grotto might — particularly if the main house is a listed building."

Mr Carter charges £800 to £1,000 to design and build a relatively simple grotto façade. And when you marry 17th-century theatricality with 20th-century technology, the possibilities are endless.

CAROLINE CLIFTON-MOGG

● *George Carter, Silverstone Farm, North Elmham, Norfolk NR20 5EX (01362 668130). Mr Carter's designs can also be seen at The Chelsea Gardener, 125, Sydney Street, London SW3.*

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q Our crocuses are established in grass beneath some apple trees, where there is also a large number of dandelions. Can I safely rid the area of dandelions without damaging the crocuses? — Mrs G.M. McCrae, Ilfracombe, Devon.

A This is easily solved. Crocuses, like grasses, are unaffected by the normal selective hormone weedkillers used to remove broad-leaved weeds from turf. So your options are: 1, spray the whole area of grass with a selective turf weedkiller. 2, carefully spot-treat the individual dandelion crowns with four to five drops only of the less dangerous weedkiller, glyphosate. 3, kill the dandelions by putting a pinch of salt into the centre of each crown. Or, 4, if there are not too many dandelions, dig them out. If the numbers are huge, the best approach might be to use a selective weedkiller first, but rather than following up with the inevitable second or third treatment for stubborn crowns, follow with spot-treatment of glyphosate.

However, are the dandelions so terrible in rough grass? Some Sri Lankan tourists I met last year were as reverential of our dandelion-filled hedgerows as we are of their orchids.

Q I have had my new garden for 12 months. Having removed old roses and shrubs, dug the soil over for six months and imported loads of manure last September, I now have a problem: there are celandines everywhere. How do I rid the beds of this weed? — Rhoda Kindell, Goudhurst, Kent.

A Did they arrive with the manure, I wonder? Probably not, in your case; it is too soon for seed to have flowered, and unlikely that there were tubers in the manure. Beware the celandine, all ye who covet those promising heaps of molehill soil on pasture land. They can be riddled with celandines. And once celandines are in the garden, they are difficult to remove.

If a bed is empty of plants, chemical sterilisation under polythene is the best option. But covering the beds with black polythene is not effective over one season. Smaller infestations may be dug out and burned, taking care that none of that cluster of little white tubers falls back into the soil, for each one will grow into a new clump.

Celandines are susceptible to spraying with glyphosate, but you need to keep hard at them. However, in shrubberies, there are worse weeds than celandines, and a virtue can be made of necessity. They are attractive in flower, look wonderfully sunny and fresh with blue Scilla sardensis under shrubs, and disappear below ground by midsummer. The only drawbacks are that they die down rather shabbily, and get ineradicably everywhere else. Perfectionists will keep them to the wild garden only.

Q My garden is overrun with rabbits. Can you give me the names of some herbaceous plants which they do not like? — Gillian Chubb, Hailsham, East Sussex.

A Rabbits are nosey and daft, and there is nothing so attractive to them as something newly planted, even if they hate its taste.

The plants to try — those which in time will cease to be objects of curiosity and will be left alone to grow — include red-hot pokers, ferns, irises, day-lilies, the hairier-leaved geraniums, pulmonarias, alchemilla, paeonies, butcher's broom, honesty, foxgloves, ajugas, most persicarias, aconitums, Solomon's seal, and lily of the valley.

If there is a rule, it is that rabbits avoid the notoriously poisonous plants and dislike a coarse, hairy leaf.

If you are a rabbit-hater, take comfort, if that is the word, in that myxomatosis, which usually is more apparent in late summer and autumn, is already to be seen in rabbit populations. This could be a result of the unusually mild winter.

● *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

Gardens to visit this weekend

☐ **[illegible] Gardens, near Sel[illegible]on, Hampshire (01703 [illegible]03).**

Two and a half miles southeast of Beaulieu, via B354. Open mid-Feb to mid-Oct, 10am-5.30pm (dusk if earlier). £4 (£4.50 peak season, weekends and Bank Holidays), children 13 (£3.50), OAPs £3.50 (Wed and Thurs £3).

The rhododendrons and azaleas that fill 300 acres of woodland gardens are one of the great annual displays. The garden was begun by Lionel de Rothschild in 1919 and its immaculate development has been carried on by the family. Visitors will appreciate the scale on which the plants are arranged and grouped among fine ornamental trees and older oaks, cedars and unusual conifers. Rothschild's rhododendron 'Hawk' group, in particular 'Crest', are the best yellow-flowered rhododendrons ever raised. There is a beacon-lighting ceremony on VE-Day.

☐ **Goodnestone Park, Canterbury, Kent (01304 840107).**

Five miles east of Canterbury, off A2 or A257 on to B2046. Open April-Oct 27. Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, 10am-5pm (Sun Oct 15, 2pm-6pm). £2, children under 12, 30p.

I am naturally biased in favour of my parents' garden at the house where I was brought up. Early summer is always a rewarding time to visit. From the lawns on one side of the 18th-century house, the extensive restoration and new planting in the park beyond the garden can be enjoyed. On the other side, beyond the amphitheatre-like terraced lawns, a yew-hedged path leads to a young lime avenue and the arboretum. Here, among the diverse collection of ornamental trees, the many flowering crabs (malus) are covered in pink, red and white blossom, with snake's head fritillaries colonising in grass below. A path from the arboretum leads between immaculate beech and hornbeam hedges into the woodland garden, where different cornus are a notable feature at this time of year. *Cornus nuttallii*, with large, pinkish-white flowers, is especially striking. Goodnestone is best known for the view along the three compartments of the 18th-century brick-walled garden to the tower of the village church at the end. Quantities of clematis, both different *C. montana* varieties and small-flowered *C. alpinas*, cover large stretches of the walls. Early-flowering summer shrubs and perennials are out in many of the borders and, in the furthest compartment the composition of long, central borders with immaculate fruit and vegetables is just taking on its burgeoning summer appearance.

☐ **Achnacloich, Connel, by Oban, Argyll (01631 710221).**

Three miles east of Connel, off A85. Open April until Oct 29, 10am-6pm. £1, children free.

The 30-acre woodland garden was begun during the 1950s, taking advantage of spectacular views across Loch Etive up to the peak of Creach Beinn. Like many Scottish west-coast gardens, the sheltered position provides a microclimate in which spectacular flowering trees and shrubs thrive. Among the many rhododendrons is a fine collection of *R. triflorum* varieties, distinctive for their peeling bark and yellow flowers. There are brilliant red-flowered embothriums from Chile, more delicate white-flowered hoherias from New Zealand, and a complete grove of Australian eucalyptus trees. Wood anemones and erythroniums are later followed by clumps of small native orchids.

☐ **University of Liverpool Botanic Gardens, Ness, South Wirral (0151 353 0123)**

Off A540, between Neston and Burton. Open daily (except Christmas Day), Mar-Oct 9, 9.30am-dusk; Nov-Feb, 9.30am-4pm. £3.50, children £2.50.

The Ness gardens were a gift to the university in 1948 from the daughter of Arthur Bulley who, in 1898, established the garden and its outstanding collection of plants. Many of the originals were raised from seed collected by the plant hunters George Forrest and Frank Kingdon-Ward, some of whose trips Bulley sponsored. Sheltered belts of holm oak, poplars and Scots pine protect the 60 acres from Atlantic winds. There are rare rhododendrons and other unusual ornamental shrubs throughout the garden's undulating site. Like many of the best botanic gardens, the range of planting is impressively broad, with herbaceous borders and rose gardens, an extensive rock garden and glasshouses. On Monday there is a plant sale.

G.P.

How to give a small border a big break

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, on early summer plants

CHRIS EADES



George Plumptre and his daughter, Hermione, check over brunneras and blending pulmonarias

In the past fortnight my garden has started to look spruce. For a start, the lawn has cheered up, with the help of a fertiliser I applied about three weeks ago. It is a controlled-release fertiliser that feeds nitrogen into the grass over a period of weeks. It is recommended that you apply it through a wheeled spreader for even distribution, but I put it on by hand, and it worked perfectly.

The fertiliser, a 4lb box of Scotts Lawn Builder (made in America but widely available), costs just over £8, and is advertised to cover 120 square yards. It is not too late to apply some now.

A few hours spent barrowing leaf mould on to my borders has paid dividends, tidying up their appearance and keeping in moisture. Plants are emerging surrounded by a covering of mulch, which will stifle some weeds.

It is easy to be lulled into false confidence in the garden's appearance at this time of year. Fresh growth appearing all the time helps to makes everything look fine. But the real test for a gardener is trying to ensure that you have done everything you can to maintain appearances for as long as possible through the summer and into autumn. A good mulch will help keep the drab and dusty look of July or August at bay.

Lately, I have been working on a small border along one wall of the house to make it look good in early summer. The border is about 3ft deep and 18ft long, with a brick edging along the front against a stone-paved path. During the winter, the border catches very little sun but from early April the sun is high enough to get above the buildings on both sides in the morning and late afternoon.

For the border, I have chosen individual plants that are in scale with its small, overall size, and to mix in ones that flower through late April and May with others that come into leaf at this time but flower later. The mainstay of the plants are pulmonarias, the lungworts, one of the best group of early summer perennials. They are adaptable and will grow in a border, in woodland or on grassy banks. Some of mine have been in for a couple of years and have made clumps about 1ft across.

Most of the pulmonarias have small, soft pink, blue or mauve flowers, and their attraction is as combination of the flowers with strikingly silvery white, spotted or mottled leaves. After they have finished flowering, a summer growth of foliage appears.

Among a dozen or so lungworts, I have included one of the few with white flowers. *Pulmonaria officinalis* 'Sissinghurst White'. The flowers are offset by the spotted leaves being slightly darker green than usual. After a year or two, the plant forms into a strong clump.

More spreading in habit is *P. longifolia*, with long, narrow leaves beneath mauve-blue flowers, while *P. rubra* 'Redstart' has warm, coral-pink flowers.

Among my selection, *P.* 'Mary Mottram' has the most impressive foliage, which is almost completely silvery coloured with green edging beneath mauve-blue flowers.

Blending well with the varied shades of the pulmonarias are two blue-flowered perennials of similar size, *Brunnera macrophylla* and *Omphalodes cappadocica*. Both are quality alternatives to forget-me-nots; their small blue flowers are similar but more interesting and delicate, and their contrasting foliages more striking.

Although they will not establish themselves as vigorously as forget-me-nots, my original single plants of both species have happily self-seeded to produce half a dozen more plants in a year.

The heart-shaped leaves of brunnera are distinctively large beneath the sprays of small, blue flowers. Rough-textured and hairy, the leaves are prone to look dry and ugly by the end of the summer, so last year I cut mine off in late July to reveal a mat of new growth below.

The narrower oval leaves of omphalodes do not have this problem, but it is usually best to pull off some old foliage from established plants in late summer, allowing new growth to appear.

The series of dome shapes which these plants form make a good combination, behind which the tall spiky leaves of iris planted along the border wall provide height and contrast. These will flower as the small plants are finishing and, with a selection of hardy geraniums, extend the border's flowering season into the summer.

When I started planting the border there were large empty spaces, and it was tempting to put in one or two large shrubs that would have filled it out immediately. But these would have unbalanced the scale, which works well.

Given the limited size of each plant in the border, there are always spaces to put in additions, such as the delightful *Corydalis flexuosa*, with fern-like leaves and bright blue tubular and spurred flowers, which I have just planted.

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Check regularly vigorous climbers, such as clematis, to ensure that they are tied firmly to their supports.*
- *Trees and shrubs planted last autumn/winter or this spring will need watering at least once a week, unless there is regular rain.*
- *Early flowering perennials, such as pulmonarias, should be trimmed after flowering to allow their mounds of new foliage to grow strongly.*
- *Hoe borders and the vegetable garden regularly to prevent weeds competing with growing plants.*
- *Many vegetables, including beetroot, carrots and French beans, can now be sown outside.*

هكذا من الاصل

With the use of cypress, privet, yew or box, hedges can be turned into attractive living garden architecture, says **Stephen Anderton**

Shear artistry makes a hedge

Nine times out of ten, all anyone requires of a hedge is that it should be green and evenly cut: a piece of living garden architecture to divide one space from another. But the other one in ten hedges are those which can perhaps work a little harder, and be fun — castellated hedges, or roly-poly hedges which look as if they have been squeezed from a gigantic tube; hedges which really are living sculpture more than architecture.

The traditional vertical profile for a hedge is a rectangle, just a few inches wider at the bottom to ensure that each face receives adequate light from top to bottom, and therefore stays green, dense and healthy. The top may be flat or round-shouldered.

But the horizontal profile of a hedge — the horizon it presents to the eye — can be as varied as you like, without any physical detriment to the hedge. The greatest change will be the work caused in clipping it. Fast-growing hedging plants, such as cypress and privet, can be given a new horizon in six months, while slower-growing subjects, such as yew, may take a few years to establish in the new shape. Once it is done, clipping takes not much longer than before, so long as you have a good eye. And, like topiary, there is great pleasure in watching the shapes take form and fill out. For more complicated or precise shapes, yew is hard to beat.



Topiary cat for a small garden

Easiest of all is a castellated top, the regular up-and-down of battlements, and it can work on a hedge of any height. Or, you may prefer just to raise the hedge height more substantially in a few places to form turrets or buttresses. For example, the curving turret tops on the hedge at at Godinton Park in Kent echo the curved Dutch gables of the house.

These taller pieces of hedge might be a good place to cut a niche for a vase, a statue or a seat. Or you might keep the whole hedge level at the top but move the ground line of the hedge shallowly in and out, to make a series of bays.

Just because a hedge is needed to stretch from A to B it does not necessarily have to go in a straight line.

Hedges running down a slope often have a runaway quality inappropriate to their mass, and this can be counteracted by stepping the profile, just as you might a solid wall. The steps can be square-ended or round-nosed, as you prefer.

You might wish to add finials to the hedge, a series of hemispheres sitting along its top. Or the finials might be separated from the body of the hedge on stalks, so that they float there, like urns.

There are endless shapes to choose from — cones, balls (a nice conceit on a sloping hedge), disks, pyramids — or, for the serious topiary enthusiast, running foxes, rabbits, squirrels, a Spitfire, the skyline of Manhattan.

Hedge profiles need not be confined to treatment at the top. Windows through a hedge can be a delightful feature, especially when arranged to give contrived glimpses into another part of the garden: the gardens at Cranborne Manor in Dorset have an excellent example of a "window" hedge. Imagine a series of windows, looking down on to a sunken lawn, like the views between the pillars of a cloister. Unfortunately, windows are not easy to insert into an established hedge. If you cut a hole through most species, the sides of the hole never reclothe themselves sufficiently. Even yew, which is so good at producing new foliage from old wood, struggles to make a green top — a lintel — to a window. But purpose-grown windows, developed by training and clipping a window as the hedge grows to its final height, are a great success.



Mix of pillar topiary and wrought iron

It is fun to take the idea further and fill the space with an ornate iron grille. In fact, the grille sits on legs within the hedge, and it can be a great help having a frame around which to make the window.

For those with a passion for bodily curves or cumulus clouds, hedges can be pruned into great rolling shapes, squeezed together to form a barrier. Low winter light will bring a most extraordinary variety of light and shade into such constructions. Once again, the ground line of the hedge can be as varied as the skyline, so parts can bulge forward at ground level, by adding plants out of the main line of the hedge. This is almost shrubbery clipping.



A squirrel makes this hedge

The whole hedge can even float if you wish, by making a "stilted hedge" — one in which the stems are kept entirely free of foliage for the first few feet. Hidcote in Gloucestershire is famed for its stilted hedges, and at Harewood House, near Leeds, stilted hedges of hornbeam were put in last year.

Unusual hedge profiles may be highlighted by the introduction into the hedge of varying coloured foliage of the same or different species. Domes of golden yew *(Taxus baccata* 'Elegantissima') always makes a fine conclusion to a long run of green yew, or to flank a gateway in a hedge.

Deciduous hedges can be made in a series of vertical stripes, of golden privet, purple plum *(Prunus pissardii)* and green or purple beech. It is a shocking effect best used in modern, formal, enclosed gardens, rather than let loose on open spaces or (horror of horrors) the countryside. Contrivance as blatant as this, however, has to have a clear, hard-working reason for being there.

On the other hand, hedges which are made of a continuous mixture of species can be as discreet at a distance as they are interesting close to. The two colours of beech and holly together make a hedge which is almost as dense in winter as it is in summer.

In topiary, coloured foliage can be used to great effect when, for instance, a golden dome of box emerges crown-like from the centre of a cube of green box. It offers the same teasing pleasure in the unreal which is found in *trompe-l'oeil* work. And it is so easy to make. Simply plant one golden box in the centre of a square of four green box, and train into shape. After four or five years you should see the effect of your work.

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British bullion hoard of Victorian gold discovered in Swiss bank vaults...

By Joanne Glover



One could never imagine the breathtaking treasures that lie buried in the vaults of the secretive Swiss bankers. It's not very often you will have the opportunity of acquiring some of that gold treasure for yourself. Following the recent discovery of a small group of original British 22 carat gold sovereigns in the vaults of a private Swiss Bank, they are now being made available for distribution among collectors and investors in the U.K. They are from one of the most historic reigns of the 19th century, that of Queen Victoria, who reigned from 1837 to 1901. The coins are from the last Victorian issue and are dated from 1893 to 1901. The veiled head of the Queen is featured, the portrait reflects the Queen in mourning at the loss of her husband, wearing the 'widows weeds' and the traditional Pistrucci designed St. George & Dragon is on the other side. Original British gold coins, each weighing just over a quarter of an ounce of 22 carat gold, and in superb condition.

When you consider the price of a run-of-the-mill sovereign and the fact that the Royal Mint charges £149 for a modern new-issue gold sovereign, these are tremendous value at only £99.50 each, including P&P. Genuine British gold coins from 100 years ago will be cherished by collectors and investors alike.

I have applied for the maximum allocation of three, and requested three different dates, I certainly don't want to miss out on this opportunity. You should try your luck too, who knows? You may be one of the lucky ones to participate in this 250 coin distribution. You can apply in writing stating the number you would like, along with your name, address and postcode to Gold and Silver Bureau at 3 Sevenways, Ilford, Essex, IG2-6XH. If you are lucky enough to be allocated any, it will have been well worth the effort.

If you want to apply over the phone and don't mind suffering a few engaged tones, call them on Freephone (0800) 614686, even on a Sunday, and you may find out instantly whether you will be successful in obtaining any. Don't send any payment initially, you will be notified if you are one of the very fortunate few whose application has been successful.

With major currencies like the pound sterling and the dollar falling on world markets, gold is once again becoming the safe haven for shrewd investors. Of course, the gold price can fall as well as rise, but many people, myself included, like the feel of gold coinage from a time when money both looked and felt like real money should.

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Because Bickiepegs are unique, and have been going for 70 years (this year - started production in 1925) they have a strong following amongst grannies, (some of whom will have used them themselves when teething!) Health visitors and Dental Education Professionals.
One of Bickiepegs strengths over the years has been that they were developed by a Harley St Peadiatrician in 1925 (Dr Harry Campbell) & he was determined that a product for teeth should contain no sugar, for big enemy of children's teeth, nor any artificial sweetening or flavourings. Of course Bickiepegs are manufactured today to the same recipe as when they started.
Being the only Teething Biscuit on the market and with such a long history they have become a 'household name'. Hence regular use on TV programmes, for example the product had a mention in Coronation Street last year, and were featured in one of Pam Ayres poems, as well as previously been used in a gag in George & Mildred's!

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Linen is blooming in vibrant colours and brings handsome rewards if treated carefully



Napkins, around £15 each, from the Linen Merchant

Linen to last you a lifetime

In southeastern Turkey in 1993 at Cayonu on the Upper Tigris river, a team of archaeologists unearthed a fragment of linen, about three inches by two inches. When it was carbon-dated, the fabric was found to be almost 9,000 years old. That is one tough swatch.

Linen is an ancient cloth that has become one of the fabrics of the decade. This season linen appears in almost every wardrobe and in every room in the house in hot pinks, deep purples and citrus yellows.

Some of the zingiest colours can be seen at the Designers Guild, where the Mahé range of sofa cushions (square £29 with pad; rectangular £26.50 with pad or fringe) have all-linen covers that close with a trio of ties. The colours include lemon, pumpkin, indigo, hyacinth and Schiaparelli pink, which last appeared in the Kings Road in the 1960s. The Archipelago range of tablecloths (£159), napkins and table mats (£17.90 each), edged with raffia, are available in a variety of colours.

Another company, Moussie, imports cheery tablecloths (160cm x 270cm, £55) and napkins (£4.75), as well as bedlinen, from Sweden in daffodil yellow or periwinkle blue with wide white borders.

Le Jacquard Français is a French marque of fine cottons and linens that uses vivid colours. General Trading Company stocks its Primrose Border napkin (£11.50) in bright blue, kelly green and traditional ecru, as well as placemats (£18.95) in paprika with a blueberry border. Liberty carries the same hemstitched napkins (£10.50) in navy, yellow, and natural, and placemats (£19.75) in white with a yellow or natural border.

The Linen Merchant, in Knightsbridge, London, was opened two years ago by Marianne Masters and Ian Southward. The partners have, between them, 25 years' experience in dealing with fine cottons and linens, and they are happy to share their wisdom.

"The best embroidered linen is from Madeira," Mr Southward says as he unfolds an appliquéd linen tablecloth (£895) in cream and green depicting a flat-course horse race. "It's a family skill. You find different generations working together on one large piece." The cloth can be made to order in your stables' colours, or with a hunt motif.

As for care of household items, Ms Masters advises straightforward washing. "Never, never, never dry-clean household linen. It can't take the chemicals." To make sure that their own stock can stand up to her advice, Ms Masters tests items herself. "When we buy something new from a supplier, I take it home and give it grief."

"If you use a laundry, tell them what the stains are, and be sure to let them know the piece is of value," Mr Southwark says. "The important thing is to get a stain out before you wash it. Linen can be washed in hot water with soap — no bleach or optical whiteners — and lightly tumble-dried or air dried, but you must iron it when it is still moist. The most common stain is red wine, which we soak out with clear alcohol, such as gin. Tea or coffee can be removed by pouring boiling water over the stained area. Greasy stains should be washed with thick suds before laundering."

Because linen can absorb twice its weight in moisture, it is ideal for bed and bath. The Linen Merchant stocks an unbleached damask dressing gown (£185) and unbleached Irish linen Turkish towels. (from £5.95 for a bath mitt to £23.95 for a large towel).

The ultimate luxury is linen sheets (from £700 to £1,000 per pair). Mr Southward used Irish linen to demonstrate the "handle" of top-quality fabric. "This is the finest linen that is made. There are 1,400 threads per square inch — feel how smooth it is."

Catherine White, manager of Linens Fine, a specialist in bedlinens, says: "Linen sheets can last a lifetime, although not everyone likes them because they feel cold and do need quite a bit of ironing." For buyers who want the look of linen sheets without going all the way, Yves Delorme offers bedding of 55 per cent linen and 45 per cent cotton with an oatmeal border, to order from Linens Fine (from £119 for a single duvet cover).

Ulster Weavers, one of the oldest and largest of the weaving companies, is benefiting from linen's new popularity. "There has been a tremendous resurgence of interest in linen over the past few years," says Paul Marmor, the promotions manager. "It's an individualistic fabric that takes a great deal of skill to produce. It holds vibrant dyes beautifully. When washed and ironed, the fabric gets a sheen just like new."

Experts agree that caring for upholstery linen is a different proposition from cleaning household linen. Jan Katzer, the owner of KCP cleaners, says: "If you are planning to use linen for upholstery, make sure the fabric is pre-shrunk because it can shrink by up to 12 per cent." He once dry-cleaned a 30 ft altar cloth which lost a foot and a half in length. Dry-cleaning, however, is not the villain. "Remember, there are also chemicals in the water when you wet-clean. The cleaner should always ask: has the piece been pre-shrunk? Have you cleaned it before? And are you insured?" he says.

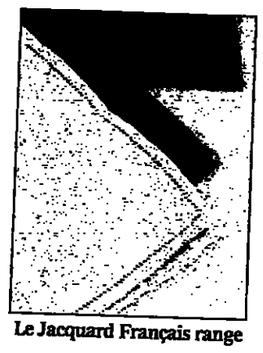
So the cardinal rules appear to be: soak for spills, use gentle detergents for dyed pieces, never bleach, air dry when possible, iron when damp on the wrong side, and, when in doubt, trust a professional. Follow these guidelines, and who knows, your linen might outlast you.

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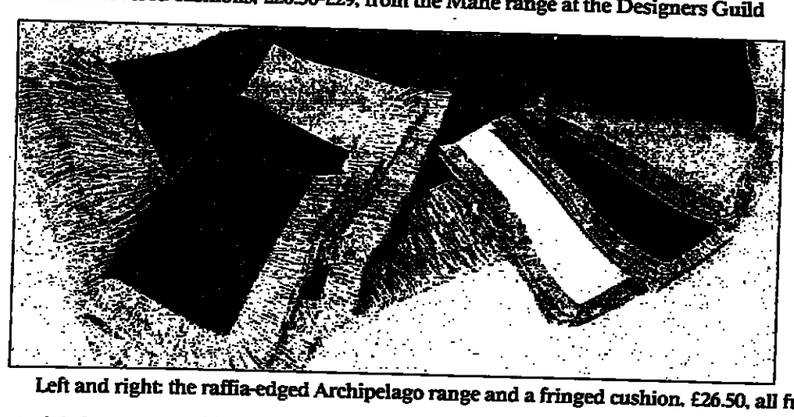
Linen-covered cushions, £26.50-£29, from the Mahé range at the Designers Guild



Le Jacquard Français range



Moussie napkin, £4.75



Left and right: the raffia-edged Archipelago range and a fringed cushion, £26.50, all from the Designers Guild



Where to buy

- ☐ Designers Guild, 277 Kings Road, London SW3 5EN (0171-243 7300).
- ☐ Moussie, 109 Walton Street, London SW3 (0171-581 5674).
- ☐ General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9BL (0171-730 0411); 10 Argyle Street, Bath, BA2 4BQ (01225 461507); 2-4 Dyer Street, Cirencester, Glos GL7 2PF (01285 652314).
- ☐ KCP Upholstery Cleaners (0171-823 3532).
- ☐ Liberty, Regent Street, London W1R 6AH (0171-734 1234) and branches.
- ☐ Linens Fine, 22 Howe Street, Edinburgh EH3 (0131-225 6998); The Courtyard, Princes Square, Glasgow G1 3JX (0141-248 7082).
- ☐ The Linen Merchant, 11 Montpelier Street, London, SW7 1EX (0171-584 3654).
- ☐ Ulster Weavers has a factory shop in Belfast. Call 01232 329494 for details.



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WALKING into the Culpeper shop in Bruton Street in London's West End, you are first struck by the mingled aromas of hundreds of herbs and spices, and then welcomed by the sort of service whose demise we spend so much time lamenting these days.

The company was founded in 1927, basing its philosophy on Nicholas Culpeper, a 17th-century herbalist who believed in the healing power of herbs, pure food and moderate exercise.

All Culpeper products are as natural as possible, and none has ever been tested on animals. When I commented on the deliciousness of the Elderflower Jelly (9oz, £1.95), Mark Thomas — whose family now owns Culpeper — said that he picked elderflowers for jelly-making purposes at home. No artificial colours, preservatives or "enhancers" are used in Culpeper food products. The packaging is simple and attractive, using biodegradable glass where practicable, and a free gift-wrapping service is available.

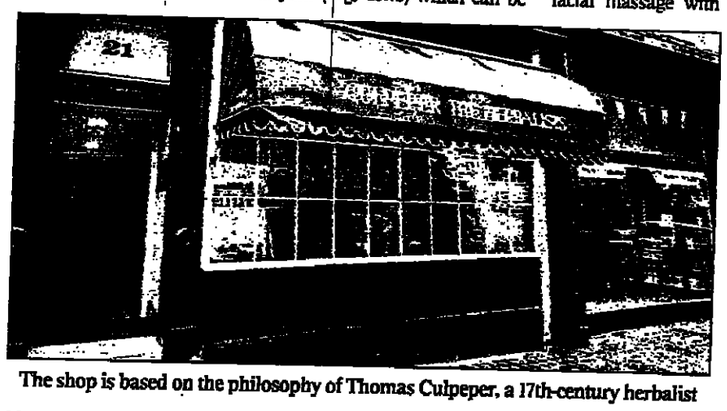
If you're a devotee of herbal medicine, Culpeper should be your corner shop. The staff will not prescribe, but will look up any herb you care to mention, and give you the name of a qualified medical herbalist whom they have recommended for 30 years. The shops carry a vast range of medicinal herbs, from coltsfoot leaves (50g, £1.40) which, taken as a tea, is said to stimulate the immune system, to wild yam (50g, £3.75) which can be taken for bilious colic. There are 60 essential plant oils (full strength, undiluted) which can be used in aromatherapy and cooking; cosmetic nut oils; and aromatherapy massage oils diluted ready for use.

SHOP OF THE WEEK

Don't buy essential oils without consulting Culpeper's free pamphlet *A Guide to the Safe Handling of Essential Oils* — they must be handled carefully — and you could also pick up a copy of *Aromatherapy and the Use of Natural Plant Essences and Nut Oils*. After reading the leaflets, put a few drops of Clary Sage Oil (14ml, £10.75) in the bath to discover what the word "relaxed" means (but not if you're pregnant); add invigorating peppermint (14ml, £4.60), rosemary (14ml, £3.50) and juniper (14ml, £4.45) oils if you're in the mood to party all night; or try a facial massage with frankincense oil (14ml, £17.95) to restore skin tone. Culpeper's range of foodstuffs includes sauces, honeys and spice blends for Indian and oriental dishes which are prepared exclusively by Pat Chapman of the Curry Club, each of which has a "chilli code" from one (very mild) to five (fetch a fire extinguisher). Culpeper has plenty to offer if you are looking for gifts: herb-scented pillows; catnip toys for cats; and a wide range of herbal teas, including peppermint (50g, £1.50), cowslip flower (50g, £1.95) and lime blossom (50g, £1.95).

STEPHANIE LEWIS

● *The Culpeper Shop, 21 Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, London W1 (0171-629 4559) and branches, plus mail order.*



The shop is based on the philosophy of Thomas Culpeper, a 17th-century herbalist

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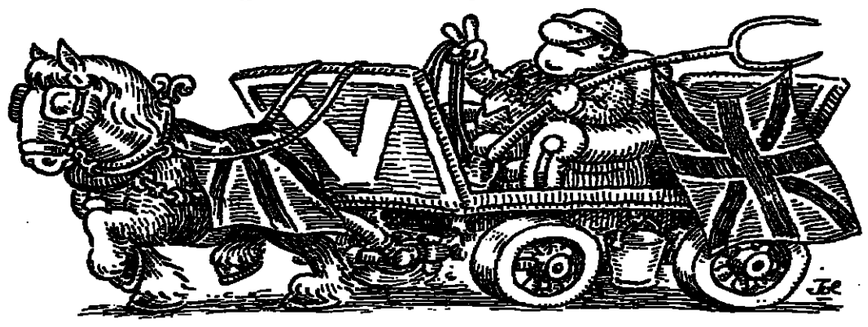
"A ripe, spicy, full flavoured Australian red wine." 75cl.
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The Victory Wagon rolls again



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

During the Second World War, I imagine the sound of a distant rumble was a regular feature of farming life here on the East Anglian coast. It might have been the thunder of returning bombers, or the airfields' heavy armoury on the move. Fifty years on, this VE-Day, our village will again feel a tingle down its spine at an approaching rumble. But at least this one will pose no threat: it will only be me, a carthorse, and a rather special wagon.

The story goes like this. In 1945, in a village near here, a wheelwright, Billy Goddard, was putting the finishing touches to a fine farm wagon intended to cart corn and hay. He painted it blue and red (as was the custom hereabouts). The farm which had ordered the wagon employed girls from the Women's Land Army and, as he was finishing, two of them ran into the village bursting with the news that the war was over. Seeing the splendid wagon standing there, one said to Billy, "You ought to paint a 'V' on that, for Victory!" Out came the red and white paint, and the wagon was duly inscribed.

What happened to the wagon after that remains a mystery. All I can tell you is that one day, five years ago when I was first farming, I was approached by our local butcher who said he had an old wagon standing in his front garden as an ornament, and would I care to make him an offer. I asked him why it had a big "V" painted on the front and he said it was known locally as the "Victory Wagon", but he knew little more than that. It took some research, but I now know the story.

As part of the village VE-Day celebrations, I shall parade the Victory Wagon through the village behind Blue, one of our Suffolk Punches. I am not certain the late Mr Goddard would approve of the condition of the wheels, or the paintwork, but it is still roadworthy, I think.

All of which prompted me to blow the dust off a remarkable little booklet published by the Government in 1945 entitled *Land at War — The Official History of British Farming 1939-1945*. It is an inspirational work, not only because of the evocative pictures, which confirm how common carthorses were on the land as recently as 1939; but because of the Churchillian nature of its prose. "No weapon ever invented is more deadlier than hunger. It can spike guns, destroy courage, and break the will of resolute peoples . . . This is the story of Britain's battlefield — the land; of how 300,000 farms, strongpoints in the battle against hunger, were armed . . . and helped to feed and sustain a nation at war." Enough to have anyone lashing a Union Jack to their pitchfork and heading for the fields.

I have no doubt that farming during the Second World War was hell for some, but compared with the increasingly pointless nature of farming today, it must have been an inspirational time to work the land. The food was needed, vital for victory. The figures speak for themselves: six and a half million new acres of land brought into production during the war, the production of essential wheat and barley doubled. As the booklet concludes: "Surely the gulf that hitherto existed between the two communities, town and country, could be bridged in no better way than this?"

Compare that with the lot of the farmer today who, far from being on the winning side, now finds himself directly in the sights of conservationists — determined to fight him on any front — of preservationists, politicians and anyone who wants to make a cheap joke at their expense. Farmers with any sense dig themselves a deep trench and keep their heads down. They can no longer console themselves with the knowledge that their produce is helping to win a war. Now, they are forced into accepting humiliating Euro-payments, increasingly structured to dissuade them from growing anything. They give farmers money now to plant trees, take land out of production, allow it to revert to the wild; anything but grow more food for an overfed Europe. Fifty years ago, no one could have predicted how far the heroic farmers would have fallen in the public's estimation. Nor the scientific advances which made those millions of reclaimed acres more productive than any farmer could have imagined in his wildest dreams.

The result is that 50 years on, the countryside is again besieged with battles being fought by the birds, bees, flowers and trees, and the heavily armoured agriculturalist with a formidable battery of chemical weapons and increasingly low morale in his heart. As any military man will tell you, it is a dangerous combination.

But it is high time the new war raging in the countryside came to an end. We desperately need all sides to negotiate a sensible peace, to bring an end to the bitterness which runs through every level of rural debate.

When the Victory Wagon rolls its iron-tyred wheels down to the the village hall on VE-Day, it will be to celebrate the peace and understanding which I hope will prevail in the next 50 years, as much as in celebration of the farming heroes of 50 years ago.

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



JOHN POTTER



This 19th-century print shows some of the varieties of poultry being bred then. They include a buff cochim, light brahma, white silkie, white cochim, black Poland and silver-laced Poland. Right: One of Michael Carter's light brahmas

Swallows dive in for a spring feast

Feather Report

Swallows are back over the farmhouses and barns. They have come all the way from South Africa, but they time their arrival precisely. They appear in our skies just as the flying insects are emerging — all the hoverflies and horseflies, the winged aphids and midges.

This week the air has been full of such creatures. Even the starlings have been wheeling around in the sky trying to catch them. But the swallows are better adapted. They speed over the grass, their blue backs glinting in the sun, forever tilting to one side or the other as they take flies into their open beaks. Or they manoeuvre higher up, where the insects have been lifted in the air currents or blown against the side of a wood, and here they use the long streamers at the side of their tail like the most sensitive of rudders.

Just occasionally swallows take food while perching. They have been seen sitting on thistles, where insects had gathered, and once one was even seen robbing a spider's web of its struggling victims.

In the new international language of ornithology, we are now supposed to call them "barn swallows" — the name they have in America, where the swallows are the same species as ours. We may resent the new name, but it has to be admitted that it is apt enough.

Nearly all swallows nowadays nest in barns or similar outbuildings. They find a lodging above a rafter, and there they make their shallow nests of mud and feathers. In one barn that had some stags' horns nailed to the wall, an ingenious pair straddled its nest across the points of two of the prongs.

It still amazes me to see the confidence with which they swoop through a narrow door into the darkness beyond.

The swallows' backs glint blue in the sun

Before man started building barns, however, swallows probably nested on jutting ledges in caves, and there was an interesting period during which they often nested in chimneys and, indeed, were called "chimney swallows". This was during the four or five centuries just before our own times, when there were many handsome chimneys, with large openings at the top and various projecting objects on the walls of the dark interior. If the fireplace was not being used in the summer, the swallows would nest on these irregularities, and there are stories of the young birds tumbling down into the kitchen below, sometimes with an owl in pursuit.

At the moment, some males are still waiting for the females to arrive. They perch on barn roofs or telephone wires to deliver their lively, twittering song, which generally ends with a disconcertingly harsh buzz or rattle.

They are not easily frightened, and from beneath one can study the fine chestnut face and throat, the dark blue band across the chest, and the pale underparts, which sometimes have a pink glow. The females are very like the males, but their colours are a shade duller, and their tail-streamers slightly shorter. Later, when the young are on the wing, they can easily be distinguished from their parents, because they have practically no streamers at all.

Hungry again, the male bird on the wire drops elegantly off it and sweeps away, still singing. It may feed just above a river, flying into the wind and dropping down to pick insects off the surface of the water. Some males start tinkering with an old nest in their territory to make their offerings more attractive to a female, but once a couple has paired up, the female takes over the proper nest-building.

The pair may bring up as many as three broods in the course of the summer, and some swallows seem to linger on in autumn till the last insect has gone from the skies. Before they leave, they like to sit side by side twittering on the telephone wires. I have noticed that the juveniles also like to rest on flat-topped trees.

Being so dependent on aerial insects, they have a hard time finding food on migration if the weather is cold and wet in southern Europe, while drought in their winter quarters in South Africa can also mean death for some of them. Here, they have suffered from the disappearance of many of the tumbledown barns that suited them so well. But every May there are still a million of them flying gracefully over our heads — and there will be five million of them before they set out on their perilous journey to the south again.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** Birders — *Watch for sedge warblers now singing lustily from bushes in damp areas.* Twitchers — *spotted sandpiper at Stoke Gabriel, Devon; lesser crested hern has returned to the Farne Islands, Northumberland; black-winged stilt is still at Titchwell, Norfolk. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

For pullet surprises, apply here

As more chickens are being battery bred, one man is trying to preserve breeds of the past

There are fashions in all things, even chickens. This, for instance, is the year of the larger hen. The result is that marans, welsummers and barnevelders are all the rage, and the Scots dumpy, down to a handful 20 years ago, is being sought after for the first time since Robert the Bruce decided its short legs made it ideal for carting about in baskets.

Never heard of these breeds, let alone know what they look like? You need to meet Michael Roberts, who has collected chickens since childhood. In 1975, Mr Roberts founded the Domestic Fowl Trust, at Honeybourne, near Evesham, Worcestershire, "because nobody else was doing anything to save the old, pure breeds that commercial farmers were ignoring". He now has more than 160 minority breeds, including the archetypal picture-book hen, the Buff Orpington.

"As a child, silkies from China were my favourite," he says. "Marco Polo, the first European to see them, described them as the only chickens he had known to have wool on their backs."

Mr Roberts's expertise takes him all over the world. He has just returned from his second visit to Russia, as adviser to the country's first domestic fowl trust, the St Petersburg Poultry Club, set up last August. The club members (householders, pensioners, amateurs and children) are restocking with the breeds that were dismissed as non-commercial when the collective farms started to be privatised and farmers began importing hens from Holland and America. He is also helping the club to raise funds in the West for incubators in which to hatch eggs.

Next year, Mr Roberts will return to Russia to help establish clubs around the country. With him will go five breeds of rare European chicken particularly suited to harsh winters. He will bring back to Britain the eggs of three rare Russian breeds to extend his small breeding flock of white long-legged Orloffs.

"Until the mid 19th century, poultry was used mainly for cock fighting," Mr Roberts says. "Then, as people moved into towns during the Industrial Revolution, they had to be fed, and that's when the birds began to be bred for food. There were only about ten varieties at that time, but farmers started to breed new varieties." Mr Roberts has eschewed charitable status for his trust, opting for independence, which allows him to make all the decisions. Sales of eight commercial breeds boost funds, though of the 20,000 eggs, chicks and adult fowl he sold last year more than a third were of rare breeds.

"Small hens are always in demand," Mr Roberts says, "but recently I have had a lot of inquiries from people who have moved into the country and found themselves with a large garden or orchard which they want to fill with the bigger chickens. We quiz new customers so that they get the birds that are best for them and know how to look after them. The main questions are: 'How many eggs do you want?' and 'How fox-proof are you?' "

Not surprisingly, Mr Roberts is highly critical of battery farming. He says that, among other things, it denies hens the pleasure of dust baths, nest-building and sunbathing, when "they go spark out, with their legs and wings spread, and people think they're dead". He believes batteries could be banned in Britain, as they have been in Sweden and Switzerland, without cutting production or pushing up costs.

While we talked, a small, hyperactive houdan brought in from central France jumped out of its pen and started causing havoc among the feather-footed Belgian biddies (*porcelaine barbu d'uccles*) next door. "He's an absolute pain," Mr Roberts said, chucking him back into his own pen. Clearly the houdan was unaware that hens never let the lack of a male interfere with their (albeit sterile) egg production. They also make less noise without a cock in their coop. On the other hand, "fayomis, from Egypt, scream whenever you pick them up, making the neighbours wonder what on earth you are doing," he says.

Unwanted male chicks in his collection are killed at a day old and sold for owl and hawk food. Unwanted male adults are cooked and eaten, without qualm, by the trust's six staff.

It was the the Romans who originally introduced different breeds of chicken to the European countries, but modern distribution in Spain is down to the trust. "The Spanish had eaten virtually all their village fowl during the Civil War. We have been delivering eggs to the Spanish Embassy in London which sends them on in diplomatic bags to breeding farms run by the Spanish agricultural ministry, which in turn distributes them around the country."

Eastern breeds, such as the Indian brahmas and Chinese pekins, came to Europe on tea-clippers. Now they are going back on aeroplanes. The trust has exported to collectors in Japan, Africa, America, Canada and Scandinavia, and interest is spreading.

We may never know which came first, the chicken or the egg, but we know that the first hen originated from the Malayan jungle fowl. Mr Roberts keeps a cock and four hens of this breed for historical interest. "but they are not popular as they tend to be flighty. People like friendly chickens."

JENNY MCCLEAN



Mr Roberts with a partridge cochim

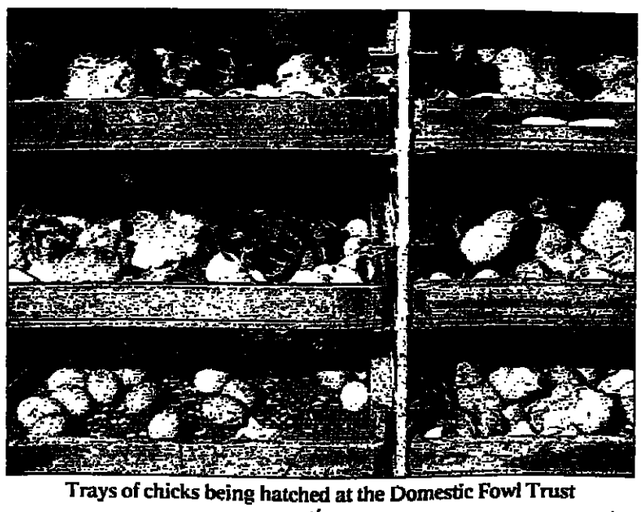
Fact file

☐ **The Domestic Fowl Trust, Honeybourne Pastures, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 5QJ (01386 833083). Open all year except Fridays, 10.30am-5pm. The trust sells fertilised eggs (to be hatched in incubators) from £4 for six; adult birds, £15-£45. Newly hatched chicks cost from £3 each from the chick "pick'n'mix".**

☐ **The Poultry Club of Great Britain (01205 724081) advises its 1,800 members on care and conservation. Details from Mike Clark on 01205 724081.**

☐ **A coop and equipment for about half dozen hens costs about £300 (six hens cost £39, more for fancy ones). Food and bedding costs about £180 a year. Birds need at least 8ft by 8ft to scratch about in.**

☐ ***Chickens at Home* is available from the Domestic Fowl Trust at £5, plus £1 p&p.**



Trays of chicks being hatched at the Domestic Fowl Trust

هكذا من الأصل

Who will win the £25,000 AT&T Non-Fiction Award? Below, two judges report; overleaf, the authors speak



The laptop computer the four short-listed authors will receive

Technical wizards hail literary winners

THE AT&T Non-Fiction Award? What's that? The answer is that it is the former NCR Non-Fiction Award under a new name.

The NCR or National Cash Register Company, which started out more than 100 years ago by making tinkling tills for shop counters, and ended up making giant financial computers, was merged with American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) last year. AT&T might be described as great distributors of non-fiction themselves. They make network equipment and computer systems, and their Worldwide Intelligence Network carries 160 million voice, data, video and facsimile messages every business day. They have continued to award the yearly non-fiction prize, but they have now rechristened it with their own name.

So what is it about? As the NCR Award, it was first given in 1988, and has gradually built up a distinguished name for itself, with a £25,000 prize for the winner (£5,000 more than Booker prize winners get for their novels) and a dinner for the literati at the Savoy. Past winners have included Simon Schama's remarkable book on the French Revolution, *Citizens*, in 1990; *The Invisible Woman*, Claire Tomalin's book about Dickens's girlfriend, Ellen Ternan, in 1991, and Jung Chang's bestseller, *Wild Swans*, in 1992.

Last year the prize went to John Campbell's biography of *Edward Heath*. All the four shortlisted candidates will this year receive an AT&T laptop multimedia computer, worth £2,500, to write their next book on.

The judges have had a lively time making their choices this year, as our interview with the chairman Alan Clark, and Val Hennessy's article, reveal.

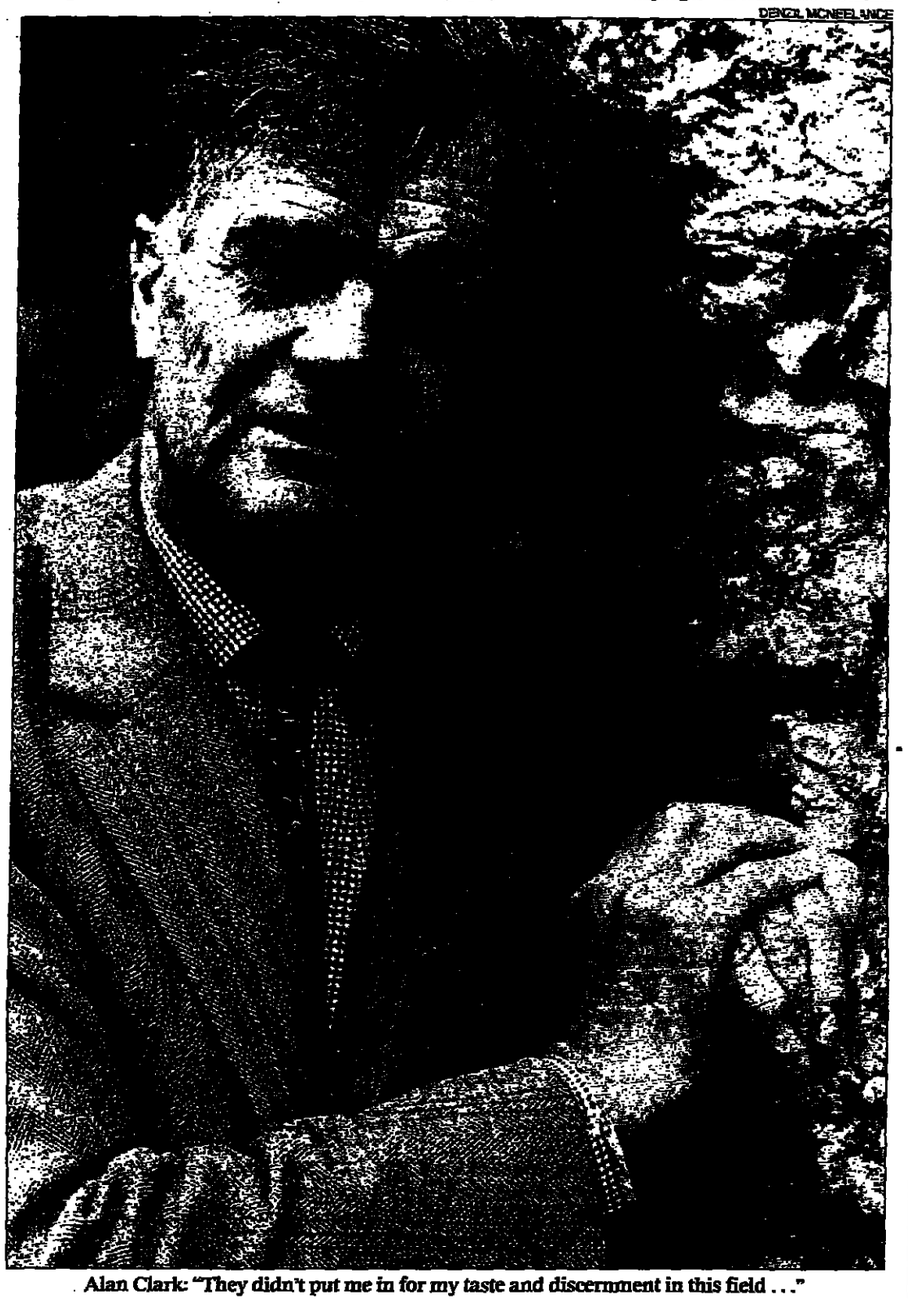
They chose a long list of 12 books from the 115 submitted by publishers, then shortlisted four of those. The judges will announce the name of this year's winner next Tuesday at the dinner at the Savoy in London.

Meanwhile, we shall have to get used to the name "AT&T" — not perhaps the most evocative name for a literary prize, but one that as the awards go on will no doubt come to acquire its own alluring associations for our biographers, historians and other purveyors of the Great Facts of Life.

DERWENT MAY

'They invited me hoping for controversy'

Julia Llewellyn Smith meets the chairman, Alan Clark — not the most shy and retiring of men



DENCIL MCNEELANCE

Alan Clark: "They didn't put me in for my taste and discernment in this field . . ."

Slumped on his velvet sofa, in his medieval castle in front of a fireplace that could house a family of four, Alan Clark does not exactly quiver with enthusiasm as he muses on the judging of the AT&T Non-Fiction Award. "Oh God," he whines, each vowel drawn out for maximum effect. "It has been a niiiightmare."

It's hard not to sympathise. Reading 115 books in ten weeks, most of which could double as work-out equipment for shot-putters, can't have been the greatest fun; at least not for a man as easily bored as Clark. So why did he agree to chair the judges? "I was curious to see how these awards operate — there have been some pretty funny results with the looker — and for the chance of getting a lot of lovely books. Well, I thought they'd be lovely . . ."

Clark is under no illusions as to why he was asked to be chairman. "They didn't put me in for my taste and discernment in this field. I was put on the committee in the hope that there might be a row, in inverted commas, and that I might be *controversial*" — in the tone it takes for this word to come out you could go away, make a cup of tea and still be back to catch the vibrations of the last syllable — "and this would attract publicity to the whole affair. But of course I haven't been."

Well, that all depends what you mean by controversial. Much of the delight of Clark's *Diaries* came from his stomach-shrivelling swipes at enemies and friends. "Loathsome puffball" is a typical Clark epithet — reserved, in this case, for his much-esteemed colleague Tom King. Readers might well suspect that the former Tory minister was camping it up for posterity — let me assure them, Clark is blissfully bitchy all the time and has the tolerance reserves of a Tudor monarch with gout.

No praise then for the standard of entry in Britain's most valuable book prize. "They didn't really hold my attention. You can't choose what books you would like to judge, you're at the mercy of the publishers, and what they chose to send you." And no praise for some of the other judges, who frequently, in Clark's opinion, were backing books for reasons of style rather than content.

"These awards may or may not only have a vestigial connection with literary merit. I couldn't care less whether Martin Amis had his teeth fixed or not, but there are people who are very swayed by fashions in making their judgments. It's frightfully tough on serious writers, who don't play the fashionable game and who suffer from neglect."

Fashion can mean in-voguery, a category which Clark admits to belonging to. "When I started writing in my thirties, I collected 40 rejection slips before finally I got someone to publish my book. Now any publisher in the country would be delighted to publish a book by me. They will take one that I have dictated over the phone. Neither way can be right."

Or it can mean political correctness, a state which Val Hennessy, for all that Clark respects her, is pronounced guilty of. "*Aristocrats* by Stella Tillyard," he muses, peering at the long list. "Quite a good book but Val wouldn't have it." Why? It's a brilliant history of 18th-century England told through the lives of four upper-class sisters. "Exactly. None of them had to make their own beds as it were." He grins slyly, my eyes dart round our baronial surroundings.

Other non-starters, as far as Clark was concerned, included a history of Aids, *The End of Innocence* by Simon Garfield, which was backed vigorously by two judges. "Who wants another book about Aids for God's sake?"

Still, there were chinks in Clark's armour. "We had to have the Mandela book [*Long Walk to Freedom*] on the shortlist, he is such a marvellous man, so I didn't care that it was a politically correct choice. The early part of the book, which he has clearly written himself, is impressive. "When he becomes a statesman he falls into the trap of political autobiography in which he wants to cover everything. De Gaulle was the only one who didn't do that, who realised that he didn't have to list every committee he ever chaired, name every lecturer who taught him at the Ecole Normale."

Long Walk will be a favourite for the prize; Clark may or may not be backing it. He is sulking because his favourite, *Louis MacNeice* by Jon Stallworthy, got knocked out in the last round of judging. To make it worse it was "blocked" by two other judges, a political trick which Clark had deployed in the previous round to destroy Garfield's book and also "to keep another book off the shortlist".

No wonder reports were leaked to the press of tantrums at the judging sessions. Clark, who has a thinner skin than one might suppose, is miffed by press reports of cantankerous leadership. "This completely unrecognisable figure has emerged, frightfully crusty and pronouncing on everything. Most people complain that I drawl and I'm too laid back."

Certainly he is almost totally horizontal now, legs waving in the air, although it is fair to guess he made an effort for the meetings. "I just laid down ordinary committee rules: all remarks to be addressed through the chairman, no one may speak while some one else is speaking otherwise you get all this *chitter chatter* [if a tone of voice could kill] across to each other which makes a shambles."

This authoritarian spiel is somewhat spoilt by the entrance of a large, lumbering dog. "You are not allowed in here, Hannah. Hannah sit. Hannah *sit!*" Hannah stands and glares at me balefully. "Frightfully sorry," says Clark, hair flopping over one eye in rakish confusion. "The dogs only obey Jane" — his wife — "you see." If his control over the committee is anything like his control over the dogs, then AT&T can expect any result on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Clark has his own work of non-fiction to fret about, a history of the Tory party from 1922 to 1990. His computer will not print it out any more — every time he presses the print button it regurgitates his standard thank-you letter to fans of the *Diaries*.

And when he told a woman at a dinner party what he was working on, her reply was "Oh God! Give us a break!" When it comes to be judged, let's hope she has nothing to do with the AT&T committee.

THE SHORTLISTS

From the 115 books selected, the judges chose a long list of 12, and then a short list of four.

SHORT LIST

The Brontës
By Juliet Barker
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25

Leonard Bernstein
By Humphrey Burton
Faber, £20; paperback £8.99

Coming Back Brockens
By Mark Hudson
Cape, £16.99

Long Walk to Freedom
By Nelson Mandela
Little, Brown, £20

LONG LIST
(Remaining eight books)

Paris After the Liberation
By Antony Beevor and Artemis Cooper
Hamish Hamilton, £20
Penguin paperback, £8.99

Younghusband
By Patrick French
HarperCollins, £20
paperback (in July) £7.99

In The Mind's Eye
By Lucy Grealy
Century, £14.99
Arrow paperback, £7.99

Sweetkillough, Let Go Your Anchor
By Maurice Hayes
Blackstaff Press paperback, £7.99

Emeric Pressburger
By Kevin Macdonald
Faber, £20

Louis MacNeice
By Jon Stallworthy
Faber, £20

Aristocrats
By Stella Tillyard
Chatto & Windus £20
paperback, £8.99.

The Village That Died For England
By Patrick Wright
Cape, £17.99

THE BOOKIES

	WILLIAM HILL	RON POLLARD
Long Walk to Freedom	6-4	evens
The Brontës	9-4	2-1
Leonard Bernstein	3-1	9-2
Coming Back Brockens	4-1	8-1

Ron Pollard, who first had the idea of betting on literary prizes, has compiled his own odds for this occasion.

THE JUDGES

Alan Clark, the chairman, was formerly Conservative MP for Plymouth, Sutton, and Defence Minister from 1989 to 1992. His frank *Diaries* were published in 1993. Other books include *The Donkeys: A History of the BEF* and *Barbarossa: The Russo-German Conflict 1941-45.*

June Formby is a bookseller. She built up the paperback department at Hatchard's, in Piccadilly, London. Since 1987 she has been manageress of the Pan Bookshop in the King's Road, London, which last year won the British Book Award for Best Independent Bookshop.

Val Hennessy has been the chief book reviewer of the *Daily Mail* for the past six years. In 1988 she published *A Little Light Fiction*, a collection of literary interviews.

Ruth Leon is a television producer and director, and is at present arts and entertainment editor for BBC Radio 5. She is the author of *Applause: New York's Guide to the Performing Arts.*

Sheridan Morley, a theatre and film critic who often appears on radio and television, is a presenter of *The Arts Programme* (Radio 2). His books include *Odd Man Out: The Life of James Mason*, *Katharine Hepburn* and *Audrey Hepburn.*

Sorry, too boring. Gong!

Val Hennessy is weighed down by 115 'dry-as-dust' tomes but cheered up by the style of the wholly self-assured chairman

Where are the dropdead marvellous books? The books that knock you off your chair, make you punch the air and kiss the author's dustjacket photograph? They certainly weren't among those submitted for this year's AT&T Non-Fiction Award which attracted, on the whole, a grim, dull, gumptionless bunch of books. The heart-sinking preponderance of nostalgic biographical works made me wonder whether the publishers who select potential prizewinners actually realise that "non-fiction" encompasses books about theatre, sport, nature, crime, medicine, countryside, urban studies, women's studies, the social impact of technology, pop music, philosophy, you name it . . .

Wading through yet another dry-as-dust tome about Churchill (Martin Gilbert's *In Search of Churchill*), and yet one more about Britain's Imperialist heyday (Lawrence James's *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*), made me feel like crawling on all fours and banging my head against the floor.

Last year more than 65,000 non-fiction books were published, of which only a paltry 115 were submitted for the awards. I say "only" but even a paltry 115 is a daunting, not to say overwhelming prospect for a judge. Try speed-reading that number in a space of ten weeks and you'll understand why I arrived at the first convening of the judges with Christopher Lee eyeballs and in a panic. Why panic? Well, I feared that I'd never hit it off with our chairman Alan Clark, a former Defence Minister, retired military historian and a man who makes no secret of his own robust sex-life.

Presumptuously I had supposed that Alan ("Call me Alan, for God's sake, let's not stand on ceremony") would go for the heavyweights like Martin Gilbert's *The First World War*, or Anthony Parsons's *From Cold War to Hot Peace*. I was wrong. One of his favourites (and mine, as it happens, and a book for which we both fought tooth and claw but which, alas, received the thumbs-down from our fellow judges) turned out to be Jon Stallworthy's *Louis MacNeice*. "Time was away and somewhere else . . ." Alan and I murmured sadly, in unison, quoting a favourite MacNeice poem as this excellent work was eventually consigned to the reject pile.

At our first meeting things got off to a shaky start with all the judges slightly overawed by our chairman. Things livened up when he announced that we must raise our hands for permission to speak and I told him not to be so bloody daft. From that moment everybody went into overdrive. Gushing enthusiasm or hoots of derision reverberated on all sides as books were long-listed or gonged.

The procedure went like this: Alan held up each book. Colin Thubron's *The Lost Heart of Asia*? Not up to his usual standard, too contrived. Gong! Marina Warner's *From the Beast to the Blonde*? Too heavy-going, read all that sort of thing years ago in *Spare Rib*. Gong! James Hunter's *A Dance Called America*? Will only appeal to a limited readership. Oh who is going to rush out and buy a book about starving Scottish Highlanders boarding slave ships bound for North America? Gong! Graham Robb's *Balzac*? Blinking boring. Gong! Kevin Logan's *Satanism and the Occult*? Loud laughter. Gong! Jonathan Dimbleby's *The Prince of Wales*? Even louder laughter and some vomiting noises. Gong! Edward Burman's *Supremely Abominable Crimes*? Do we really want to read a book packed full of sacrilege, sodomy and torture? Don't we get enough of that at home? Speak for yourself, Alan. Gong! Stella Tillyard's *Aristocrats*? Cheers. Terrific. Couldn't put it down. Definitely one for the long list . . . Yes. It's a brutal process. It's insulting to authors. And it's why literary prizes are always, ultimately, hit-and-miss affairs involving snap decisions, idiosyncratic preferences and massive compromise.

Then there's the way your thoughts wander. Each time Alan opened his mouth, pontificating in those suave, Eton-educated, wholly self-assured, ruling-class tones, I kept picturing episodes from his infamous diaries. As he sat debating, for instance, the merits of John Laughland's *The Death of Politics*, there flashed upon my inward eye images of Alan's much-publicised randy rompings with a High Court judge's wife and her two young daughters.

As he expounded upon the extraordinary history of the Empire detailed in Patrick French's *Younghusband*, I suddenly recalled one of his diary entries that went: "Yesterday I travelled by train, and a plump lady came into my compartment at Waterloo. She was not wearing a bra, and her delightful globes bounced around prominently, but happily." Good grief, I was thinking, this man was once Mrs Thatcher's closest confidant. What a lech. Better keep one's globes under control when old Alan's around. But then my reverie was shattered by things getting serious.

ROS DRINKWATER



Val Hennessy feels judging is a happy, depressing, angry job

Alan was brandishing Simon Garfield's *The End of Innocence* (a history of Aids), throwing a minor wobbly and roaring that it could not be a winner, and if it was it would be "over my dead body". Everyone started going at him hammer and tongs. Sheridan Morley and Ruth Leon banged the table with their fists.

I chipped in to say that much of Garfield's book went over my head. What, I asked, is "racking"? Alan bellowed: "Damned good question. Val, what *is* "racking"? And it took Ruth several minutes to enlighten us. The upshot was that *The End of Innocence* was gonged. We then all tucked into sandwiches (vegetarian ones for Alan) and I recalled how I used to go hop-picking each year on land near to the castle which Alan owns in Kent.

Afterwards the ladies retired to the powder room for some girl-talk and it was generally agreed that Alan has a certain *je ne sais quoi*. It was also agreed that it's not every day a woman finds herself knees under the table with a man whose personal wealth exceeds £40 million, who owns a castle, 27,000 acres of Scottish estate (no wonder James Hunter's *A Dance Called America* didn't grab him), farms in Wiltshire and Dorset and has a home in Switzerland, *and* knows what he's talking about when it comes to books.

Being a judge is an immense privilege. It can be exhilarating — as when Lucy Grealy's *In the Mind's Eye* (a brave, beautifully-written autobiographical account of a young life wrecked and reclaimed following jaw cancer) was long-listed, and dispiriting when a book that you particularly admire is rejected by fellow judges. No one shared my enthusiasm for Patrick Wright's *The Village That Died for England* (a delightfully quirky history of abandoned Tyneham village in Dorset, and a statement about the futility of individual protest when pitted against the government war machine), or Will Hutton's triumphantly polemical *The State We're In* (a passionate plea for British constitutional change and for City fat cats to foster home industry).

At first everyone turned glassy-eyed when I announced that Mark Hudson's *Coming Back Brockens* had almost blown my socks off. It didn't make the long-list until I pleaded for everyone to give it another read — please — and then it subsequently bounced off the ropes and back into the ring.

A judge feels guilty, too. As I did when two people raved about Antony Beevor's and Artemis Cooper's *Paris After The Liberation* and I confessed that one week after reading it the only detail I recalled was the way Paris beatniks of the 1960s avoided National Service by smoking three crushed aspirins in a cigarette an hour before their medical. No. Don't try it. I'm told it causes heart failure.

I am writing this shortly after the meeting to select our shortlist. Fists didn't exactly fly but Alan went into a sulk at one point and I began drumming my boot heels. It gets you like that — all the tension, conflicts of taste, personality clashes. "These things are always a bloody fiasco," chckled Alan, buttoning up his Savile Row overcoat. We were standing outside the AT&T building, with the wind whipping along the Marylebone Road. "May the best man win, eh, Val," he grinned, with a debonair dance of the eyebrows. "Or woman, Alan." I replied, jumping into a taxi.

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AT&T THE AT&T NON-FICTION AWARD

The authors' tales: a political life spent mainly in prison, Bernstein, the Brontës and the Durham miners

Smuggling Mandela's story

FROM THE OBSERVER, APRIL 15 1960



Thirty years after Harold Macmillan's famous words, Nelson Mandela is released. He wrote his autobiography in prison at night

President Nelson Mandela is dismissive of news that his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, is nominated for a literary award. He told me: "One of the most puzzling things is why so many people throughout the world have a preference for very cheap literature. If I were you I wouldn't read that book." I told him that I had read it, and he scoffed that now I was probably just as criminal as he was.

More seriously, he is pleased and surprised by the book's sales, and is already at work on a second volume, making notes each day for a book about his time in government, which he will write after he retires in 1999.

The bulk of the autobiography was written surreptitiously on Robben Island, the windswept jail just off Cape Town. It was suggested by Mr Mandela's fellow prisoners, Ahmed Kathrada and Walter Sisulu, his long-time friends and colleagues, as a project to make the 60th birthday of the most famous political prisoner in the world a memorable event.

In the end it was not published until long past the author's 76th birthday. But when the idea was first mooted soon after he was 57, he threw himself enthusiastically into this new project, adopting an unorthodox work schedule. "I would write most of the night, and sleep during the day," he recalls. "During the first week or so, I would take a nap after dinner, wake at 10pm and then write until it was time for breakfast. After working at the quarry, I would then sleep until dinner."

After a few weeks of this, he told the authorities (not surprisingly perhaps) that he was not feeling well, and would decline to go to the quarry. "They did not seem to care, and from then on I was able to sleep most of the day."

The foolscap manuscript was edited by Kathrada and Sisulu, and then passed to another prisoner, Laloo Chiba, who transcribed it into an almost microscopic script, reducing ten foolscap pages to a single small piece of paper.

It was then passed to Mac Maharaj, who is now Minister of Transport in the Mandela Government, and was at that time in charge of surreptitious communications at the jail, to smuggle it out. Mr Maharaj hid the transcripts in the bindings of notebooks he used for study and took them with him when he was released in 1976.

Maharaj would communicate when the transcript was safely out of the country, and only then would the original be destroyed. Meantime, what to do with 500 foolscap pages, which the prison authorities would enjoy reading but not find very amusing?

They were buried in the prison yard, but a few weeks later most of them were found by the guards during the construction of a dividing wall. Mandela, and Kathrada and Sisulu, whose emendations were in the margins, were hauled before the prison authorities and deprived of study privileges for four years.

When Maharaj was released, he sent the microscopic manuscript to England and later joined it in London and reconstructed it with the help of a typist. He presented a copy of the typescript to Oliver Tambo, then President of the African National Congress, in Lusaka. "From there the trail goes cold," the author writes in the published book. "I heard nothing from Lusaka about the manuscript, and still don't know precisely what Oliver did with it. Although it was not published while I was in prison, it forms the basis of this memoir."

At the launch party to celebrate the book's publication in South Africa, Mr Mandela complained that he was pressed by his editors to make the book more readable, and in particular to claim personal credit for much more that happened, saying "I did this..." or "I decided that..." instead of attributing everything to the high command of the African National Congress. Certainly, too, for a knowledgeable reader the book explains a good many matters that did not need explaining. "A kraal," for instance, the author explains, "was a homestead, and usually included a simple fenced-in enclosure for animals."

But the book is notable for cataloguing the way in which the present South African President sacrificed normal human relations — with his wives, his children and his friends — for the freedom struggle and for politics. His first wife wanted him to give up politics in favour of religion, and when he would not, grew distant and jealous. Of his second wife, Winnie, he says: "Just as I am convinced that her life while I was in prison was more difficult than mine, my own return was also more difficult for her than it was for me. She married a man who soon left her; that man became a myth; and then that myth returned home and proved to be just a man after all."

At one stage he records that under a more tolerant prison regime he was suddenly allowed a "contact visit" with his wife. "I held her to me for what seemed like an eternity," he says. "It had been 21 years since I had even touched my wife's hand."

He began to see the garden that he was allowed to tend on Robben Island as a metaphor for aspects of his life: "A leader must also tend his garden," he writes. "I wrote Winnie two letters about a particularly beautiful tomato plant, how I coaxed it from a tender seedling to a robust plant that produced deep-red fruit. But, then, either through some mistake or lack of care, the plant began to wither and decline and nothing I could do would bring it back to health.

"I narrated this small story at great length. I do not know what she read into that letter, but when I wrote it I had a mixture of feelings: I did not want our relationship to go the way of that plant, and yet I felt that I had been unable to nourish many of the most important relationships in my life. Sometimes there is nothing one can do to save something that must die."

In sacking his wife from her job as Deputy Minister in his government, the President said this week that he had had to put all personal feelings to one side. The book makes it clear that he has put such feelings to one side for virtually all his adult life.

MICHAEL HAMLYN

Sacred cows from Haworth

When Juliet Barker began research for her biography of the Brontë family, Nelson Mandela, a co-nominee for the 1995 AT&T Non-Fiction Award, was still in prison. Tony Blair was *thinking of standing* as an MP, the Berlin wall was just standing.

"Well, the PR blurb called it 11 years," Ms Barker says, "because it sounded glamorous. But that includes my six years as curator of the Brontë Museum. The book itself only got under way when I left that job, in 1988." To look at the volume, a 1,000-page monster with copious notes which challenges almost every assumption that has been made about the family, you might say that even 11 years sounds like speedy work. But the juices of *The Brontës* had been flowing since the author was a child.

"I have always lived near Haworth, so I was close to all the mythology to begin with. I read *Jane Eyre* when I was 11, then *Wuthering Heights*, and then Mrs Gaskell's biography of Charlotte when I was about 13, which coloured my reading of the books, as it has done for generations of readers. That was where the tyrannical father, the dissolute Branwell, the wild Emily, and the poor, dutiful Charlotte came from. My book is not a radical reappraisal; it is just that everyone is locked into the Gaskell picture, which was a deliberate fabrication."

Despite this youthful immersion in literature and local lore, when Ms Barker arrived at Oxford from the North it was to study history rather than English. "I knew that I would always be able to read novels, but I felt that history was a discipline that had to be learnt." Hence the rigorous attention to sources and detail in *The Brontës*, at the expense of fatuous correlation with the literary works.

"The books are a result of the life, they are not the life put into fiction. Since Gaskell, people have been locked into the opposite way of thinking. It was she who suggested that anti-social characters such as Heathcliff and Rochester were drawn from calamitous real-life encounters, as a defence against perceived improprieties in the novels which threatened the authors' reputations. As a friend of Charlotte, Gaskell's chief concern was to provide a palatable image of her for posterity. It certainly worked, because sales of the books were something like 1,000 copies a year before the biography came out; immediately afterwards they were selling out print-runs of 25,000."

Wuthering Heights and *Jane Eyre* have remained the most popular of English classics ever since, making cult figures of the sisters, who attract a unique following of "Brontëmanes". Juliet Barker first encountered true Brontëmania when she took a job as curator of the Brontë Parsonage Museum at Haworth (which has 200,000 visitors each year) while working on her doctorate in history as an absentee from Oxford.

"People would walk around the house saying things like 'Look, there's the sofa where Emily died', and 'Oh, poor Charlotte she had such a hard life'. In fact Emily didn't die on the sofa at all. And Charlotte really wasn't that unfortunate. In fact, most of the furniture was put in the house after the Brontës had died — and sketches on the walls supposed to be by the children were fakes, so I papered over them. What I was interested in was the library, the unique collection of Brontë papers, but the 'Poor Charlotte' school of visitor wanted something easier to identify with, even if it was bogus. Brontëmanes are attracted by the doom and gloom of the Haworth story, but they are not particularly literary — it is fair to say that while they have read *Wuthering Heights* they are not the sort to have read *Bleak House*."

Barker's genocide of the sacred cows attracted huge press attention, as well as the condemnation of old-school Brontë fans. Was there a deliberate effort (with an eye on sales) to challenge the status quo from the outset?

"Not at all. In the time I spent working on the library I became aware that there was a lot of stuff that had been ignored or misread, and a lot that had never been found. Branwell's papers, for example, had been sold all over America. I had them microfilmed, and I assembled them all in one place for the first time in 150 years. The most exciting moment was discovering letters which proved he had an affair with Mrs Robinson, her employer's wife. Until then, there had been only speculation."

By the time Barker left Haworth, she was certain that there was a great deal to be reappraised. Two years were spent going through contemporary local newspapers, which had been ignored until then. "They made it clear that Haworth was by no means the gloomy hamlet cut off from society that Gaskell described, but a thriving town with 13 working mills, choral societies and literary groups." It was, though, the picture of Charlotte as strong and manipulative, far more the tyrant than her father, which upset the Charlottophiles.

"When I had finished the book, I gave a lecture to the Brontë Society about Mrs Gaskell's motivations for writing her biography. About half-way through, someone got up and left. Then some more got up, and from then on there was a steady flow of disgusted members heading towards the exit.



Branwell: affair was proved

"When I wrote *The Brontës* I was aware that there would be some people who wouldn't want to know, but underestimated the passion of the objectors. I'm still getting half a dozen letters a day, even now. And have the ramifications of her myth-shattering image put her off writing biographies?

"Not at all, I'm working on another one now. And after that I think there may be quite a bit more to be said about Mrs Gaskell."

GILES COREN

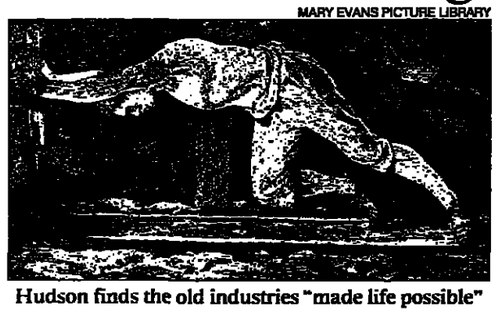
A rich seam of village life

ON APRIL 4, Mark Hudson was in a state of "inconsolable gloom", he told me. The next day he was due to take his driving test. It was his fifth attempt, and he was convinced he was going to fail. That night, he heard that his book, *Coming Back Brockens*, was on the shortlist for the AT&T Award. He took the test, and passed it with flying colours.

Now 38, and married last month, he did not begin life as a writer. He was born in Huddersfield, and came to London to study art. He became interested in film-making, and tried for several years to find work as a screen writer. Then a friend who was doing scientific research work in The Gambia wrote to invite him to stay. He would never have another chance to see Gambian village life at such close quarters.

Hudson went, looked, and suddenly knew that what he wanted to do was write a book — about the village. He spent four years on it, and when it came out, called *Our Grandmothers' Drums*, it won both the Thomas Cook award for the best travel book of the year, and the Somerset Maugham award.

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY



Hudson finds the old industries "made life possible"

Since then, he has struggled on, living in north London, and surviving by writing. *Coming Back Brockens* is about another village, and one that he thought he knew better until he looked closer — Horden, the mining village in Durham that his family came from.

The book is both a vivid picture of life in Horden, past and present, and an account of how the myths he had absorbed from his family about the place were shattered by his discoveries. It is a well-constructed book. It leads you from his great-grandfather's time up to the world of closed pits — the title comes from a local expression that means "coming out of the mine while the roof collapses behind you". But it is not only history. "It was detective research," he told me, "and you don't meet your material in the correct order. The historian goes on to put it in the right order. But if you just do that you obliterate all the pleasure you got from the search." So in the book he keeps two balls in the air at the same time — the history of the place as he ascertained it, and the day-to-day story of his meetings with people, his discoveries and his troubled emotions. (He did not like everybody he met.)

"Before I decided to write the book," he says, "Horden was simply my father. It was the place as it existed for him in the 1930s. I associated it entirely with socialism." But going there was a revelation of "all its subtle shades".

His feelings about what he found are mixed. The miners' lives were terrible, yet "the old industries made life possible", and the miners and their families "got through it with dignity and enjoyment". He acknowledges that the pits were probably doomed, but deplores the way the Government closed them without putting anything in their place. At the same time, he senses that there is a legacy of passivity in Horden, a feeling among the northern working class that it is useless and even wrong to change things, to educate oneself, to get away. Yet he is sure that education offers "the only possible future".

As for himself, Hudson feels changed by the experience of writing it — "I feel more whole". He is working now on a novel and "trying to get an advance". At this point in his writing life, his appearance as one of the final runners for the AT&T Award is just the recognition he needs.

DERWENT MAY

Magical ingredients from the spell of Bernstein

Humphrey Burton says that writing the biography of Leonard Bernstein was "a cathartic recompense for the passing of someone who, even though I was 59 when he died, was a very strong father-figure, and whose death left a gaping hole in my working life".

The two men first met when Bernstein came to Britain and appeared with Huw Wheldon on *Monitor* in 1959 for the launch of his operetta, *Candide*. "I fell under the spell like almost everyone he met. We hit it off immediately." Whenever they did argue, Burton says, it was because they had both drunk too much, which explains why, in one blinding fury over some Bernstein abuse, Burton managed to stalk into a plate-glass window, knocking himself out. The next day Burton and Bernstein went windsurfing together in Tel Aviv harbour.

"When you were a friend of Bernstein," Burton says, "you were a friend for life." (Only one exception can be found in Burton's formidably researched 600 pages: the composer David Diamond, who had gossiped to Joan Peyser for a scurrilous kiss-and-tell biography which mortified Bernstein when it was published in 1987.)

For Burton, Bernstein was an inspiration. "He was already a tremendous expert on television, so when we came to launch music on BBC2, which remains one of the peaks in my life, it was very much with the benefit of his influence and example." Burton went on to make some 160 music films, working with Bernstein "in his conducting orbit" for two or three weeks every year.

"While I had a degree of closeness which would be most biographers' dream, when writing the book I came to realise that I knew him much less well than I had thought. It is my view now that no one knew every aspect of him, not even his family, so my task became to fill in all the gaps in my knowledge."

Not all biographers, Burton concedes, would think so close a relationship an advantage. "Some would say it is necessary to be at arm's length and completely dispassionate, but there was a fellow called Boswell, you know. While I do not wish to claim that I am in any way on a level with Boswell, one of the nicest things any reviewer said was that my book had a Boswellian quality."

His closeness to Bernstein was, in any case, the reason why Burton was preferred by the Bernstein Estate to several professional biographers who applied for access to the papers, letters, diaries, scrapbooks and cuttings which Bernstein, with typical precociousness, had started collecting when he was 14. "Another biographer has said: 'Beware relatives, they are the worst'," Burton says, "but it took me three years to win the full confidence of Bernstein's sister, Shirley, and the letters she gave me which Lenny had written to her while struggling with his sexuality before getting married... that sort of intimacy you cannot get any other way."



Bernstein: 2,000 friends

Burton says he does not see himself as a biographer "interpreting a personality or projecting them in a literary way, but rather working away, doggedly recording the facts as I find them".

He does not expect to win the AT&T Award, though on the morning we spoke, newly back from Copenhagen, he was scuttling to the bookshops to buy his rivals' efforts. "I certainly do not expect to win. I am not in the same world as Nelson Mandela for a start, and for me it will be a fantastic privilege if I can just shake his hand. But I do want, when I meet the others, to be able to look them in the eye and say, which very few people are able to do when they talk to me, 'I have read your book and I enjoyed it'."

This is Burton's first book, but he is close to signing up for a second biography, with a living subject of whom he already has some close knowledge. "I cannot say more, but I do not think I could write about anyone for whom I did not already feel strong affection. That was the joy with Lenny, that he really worked at his friendships, sending birthday cards, writing sonnets for them, resuming conversations where they had left off, remembering what your children were doing, and really caring for what must have been about 2,000 people, his circle of friendship was so wide."

Burton says: "It is a terrific honour just to be in this short list. I think it must be seen partly as a tribute to Bernstein himself. His genius and zest for life must have touched the jury's reaction."

Modesty aside, though, there is one mild gripe he would like to get off his chest. "Some of the less favourable reviews rather took the line: 'What is this jumped-up television producer doing writing a book like this?' I stuck to the framework I first proposed in 1991, without varying it a jot, and then it was a question of doing what I have always had to do in television, starting by overwriting in one sense, but then cutting away to tell what had to be told as succinctly as possible. Television is not such bad training."

ROBIN YOUNG

THE CRITICS' VIEW OF THE SHORTLISTED BOOKS



THIS is Mark Hudson's exploration of the Durham mining village from which his family came. "Painstakingly evokes the lost world of the pits," wrote *The Sunday Telegraph*. "Beautifully written and observed," said *The Times*. "What he discovers is not only a family history that has collapsed in on itself, with its odd air pockets of understanding, but a whole society. When, and if, the rescue team turns up is anybody's guess." "He both mourns the demise of coal, and is glad to see the back of it," said *The Independent*. "But it would not have been appropriate if his story, like the mine, hadn't ended with something of a sob."



MANDELA'S autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom* is "one of the most extraordinary political tales of the 20th century", said *The Financial Times*. "The book expresses much bitterness against the apartheid system in its every aspect," remarked *The Sunday Telegraph*, "but it shows no bitterness whatever against any single person, from prime minister to policeman, who enforced that system". "Humour lightens a narrative which, Mandela acknowledges, owes much to the collaboration of Richard Stengel," said *The Daily Telegraph*. However, *The Observer* commented that "much is left untold".



HERE is Humphrey Burton's loyal and affectionate memoir of a friend — and the reviewers all agreed that the book was as energetic as Bernstein himself. "One lays down these pages exhausted by the subject's inexhaustibility," said *The Sunday Telegraph*. "Always new plans, ideas, challenges, affairs and journeys, all entered on with frenetic zeal." "Researched with a thoroughness approaching the Teutonic," wrote *The Times*. "It dwells perhaps to excess on Bernstein's sex life," opined *The Daily Telegraph*. "From an early age he fell operatically in love with regiments of young men ... But a book worthy of a great man."



THIS 1,000-page book about the Brontë family shakes up every prevailing idea about its members. *The Daily Telegraph* observed that Charlotte is portrayed as "snappish, snobbish and sour", while Patrick was no longer a "paranoid father" but "emerges as an heroic man". "Ruthlessly meticulous revisionist history," said *The Sunday Times*, "but Charlotte's voice resists this version of her." "An outstanding achievement, a magnificent portrait which not only contains a wealth of important new material, but is also a delight to read," said *The Times*. "Should draw crowds," commented *The Spectator*.

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How to knit a story from wool

Writing a book means being proactive and banishing all self-doubt

For anyone who is contemplating writing a book, here are three questions. Is too much knowledge a dangerous thing for writers? Is there such a thing as the optimum amount of research, whether for a work of fiction or non-fiction? And when is the right moment to stop?

While chairing two events in this year's *Times*/Penguin festival of fiction, I enjoyed listening to several successful novelists talking about their own experiences of writing. Both the *grandes dames* of British crime fiction, P. D. James and Ruth Rendell, are evidently meticulous researchers. James, who used to work at the Home Office, is a stickler for criminological and forensic detail; Rendell employs a researcher, but always spends time herself at the site of every scene in her novels. Their diligent attitude contrasts with the more serendipitous one of Martin Amis, for example, who takes much longer to write each novel but insists that he does very little conscious research. He prefers to make it up: open the window, he advises, but do not leave the study.

For some writers, the creative process itself seems to resemble that of talking for children: they do not quite know what they will say until they do it. Susan Hill vividly compared her work to drawing wool out of her head, and being continually astonished to find a pattern emerging. Many share this spontaneous sense of both wonder at and detachment from their own creation. For such writers, only intuition can impart knowledge of the right moment to stop thinking through the structure or accumulating material and to start writing.

For others, such intuition is lacking. The new biography of Anaïs Nin by Deidre Bair (Bloomsbury, £20) recounts the history of a woman with a sustained, all-consuming need to write who spent most of her life preparing the raw material — her journals — for a great novel which was never written. She ended by writing pathetic notes to herself: "Anaïs begin a book — WRITE — begin anywhere." Her most successful books by far, two slim volumes of erotica, were posthumous compilations.



DANIEL JOHNSON

Even the most disciplined and productive authors, though, may find it impossible to complete a book, especially if they happen to be academics. The University Church, Oxford, was recently the scene of an impressive memorial service for the historian Angus Macintyre, who died in a car crash last December. The presence of so many eminent colleagues and pupils testified to Macintyre's academic distinction; and to evoke his remarkable personality there were contributions from three poets (James Fenton, John Fuller and Peter Levi), from Professor Roy Foster, and from Angus's son Ben, the present New York correspondent of *The Times*.

But his closest friend, the biographer John Grigg, asked why, after writing a splendid life of Daniel O'Connell, Macintyre had never completed another book. Grigg's view was that he combined the most exacting standards with a self-doubt which inhibited him from finishing a major work. If Grigg is right, then I was unaware of Macintyre's frustrations during the many delightful hours I spent in his tutorials some 20 years ago. Angus was indeed a good writer, but he was a great teacher and a superlative talker. I think he knew his strengths, expended his prodigious energies accordingly and rejoiced that Ben took to authorship more readily than he did.

Not every writer need be prolific. Several of the greatest teachers who ever lived probably wrote nothing at all: Buddha, Zoroaster, Abraham, Socrates, even Jesus Christ. Yet these examples are from the ancient world. Most of those who have influenced mankind in modern times have been writers.

To write well is as rare a talent today as it ever was. Bad books are usually due to the lack of that talent, not to lack of preparation. If a writer cannot bring himself to stop preparing to write, his muse may be telling him to desist altogether. To embark on a book is to be proactive, to banish self-doubt. Few great writers have let research obstruct their writing. Few great books have been left unwritten due to "writer's block".

Talking of great books, it has often been pointed out to me that new editions of literary classics receive very few reviews. I intend to make up for this here from time to time. This week, Trollope: the World's Classics paperback edition of his works in 49 volumes is now complete, with the appearance of *The Later Short Stories*. These are cheap reading copies, with the Barchester and Palliser novels available in bargain sets for £20 and £24 respectively. For those who prefer hardbacks, *Can You Forgive Her?* — the first of the Pallisers — is the latest in the Everyman Library's elegant Trollope series, at £11.99.

Meanwhile, the Trollope Society's Complete Edition continues its stately progress at a rate of four titles a year, and has now reached the half-way stage. The latest pair are *Castle Richmond*, introduced by Max Hastings, and *The Claverings*, introduced by Max Egremont. Hastings thinks Trollope's notorious depiction of the Irish potato famine was by no means complacent, but even he is too squeamish to excuse the novelist's Malthusian view that starvation was merely the means by which "a merciful God . . . disencumbered" an overpopulated island. Readers who want to subscribe to this handsome edition, published jointly with the Folio Society, should write to John Letts, The Trollope Society, 9a North Street, London SW4 0HN.

Mad and bad on a Montana mountain

■ THE STANDOFF
By Chuck Hogan
Macmillan, £9.99

THE tragedy of the United States is that it took the Oklahoma bombing to make most people there realise that their fellow Americans were as dangerous as anyone else, but better armed.

America's insane gun legislation has trapped a nation in a vicious circle: "There are so many armed villains out there I need a gun to protect myself, and anyone who tries to take it off me had better watch out." With *The Standoff* Chuck Hogan, a 26-year-old from Massachusetts, who used to work in a video store before this first novel netted him $1 million in pre-publication movie rights, has touched a raw nerve with a sharpened scalpel.

The siege at Waco by the FBI and Federal Marshals was mightily gripping theatre live on American television right up to its bungled denouement. In *The Standoff* Hogan has reduced the formula to its quintessential: one crazed, hillbilly, white, supremacist, anti-Semite Bible-basher holed up in a cabin on a Montana mountain with his wife and heavily armed children, cordoned off by the high-tech hit squads of so-called civilisation, commanded by a soul-searching ex-drunk with marital problems.

The biggest threat of all comes from the several thousand loose cannons in the hands of the mountain man's supporters. This is an array of backwoodsmen, neo-Nazis and separatists calling for an independent white Christian republic in the northwestern states of Washington, Wyoming, Montana and Oregon. But what crime has the fugitive on the mountain top committed?

This is not so much a story with a plot as a set-piece with an escalation curve. Hogan's main characters are well drawn, in particular Special Agent Banish and the local county's complex Indian sheriff, and he has a good ear for dialogue — important in a siege situation where the degree of communication can be crucial to the outcome.

The *FBI* jargon is kept at a level that is both believable and comprehensible, the code language of trained hostage negotiators adding to the tension, particularly when it is revealed that the psychological indicators of the "surrender ritual" and the "suicide ritual" are identical. The climax is made for the movies.

PETER MILLAR

Talking about their generation

Ian Brunskill on 860 pages of pop history that sum up five decades of human behaviour set to music

■ THE FABER BOOK OF POP
Edited by Hanif Kureishi and Jon Savage
Faber, £16.99

PART innocent rebellion, part cynical exploitation; part self-expression, part mindless fashion ... "Pop", as the American critic Greil Marcus observed, "is an argument anyone can join in" — and in the 860-odd pages of this generously priced anthology, pretty much anyone does.

The familiar bylines are all here, from the best and the worst of the specialist writers, to those lesser lions of modern letters who found that pop could pay. For the likes of Colin MacInnes, Tom Wolfe, Norman Mailer, Studs Terkel and Hunter S. Thompson, pop was a ticket to a vivid alternative world that had a soundtrack but lacked a literary voice.

The pop alternative is all-embracing. Pete Townshend of the Who proclaimed in 1965 that "We stand for pop art clothes, pop art music and pop art behaviour. We live pop art". Kureishi and Savage glory in those eclectic ambitions. From the pre-modern sharpness of the 1940s dance bands to the post-modern miseries of the 1990s raves, clothes and behaviour matter as much as music.

The book charts fashion from 1940s zoot suits to Carnaby Street, and from Biba to bondage gear. Politics is never far away: segregation in the American South is seen through the eyes of Mary Wilson and the Supremes on tour in 1962; Iggy Pop dodges the draft; disco becomes a celebration of gay sexuality.

But if pop's challenge to society is wide-ranging, not everyone finds it effective. For Paul Johnson, writing in *The New Statesman* in 1964 and reprinted here, "The Menace of Beatlism" is not that it is dangerous, but that it is vacuous: "Our society has long been brainwashed in preparation for this apotheosis of inanity. For more than two decades now, more and more intellectuals have turned their backs on their trade and begun to worship at the shrine of 'pop culture'." Germaine Greer, grappling breathlessly with the revolutionary potential of Mick Farren and the Deviants in *Oz* in 1969, may well prove him right.

Even cleaned up and repackaged here, stripped of the crackles of context like old 45s remastered for CD, Johnson and Greer share an authentic period ring. That is what gives the compendium its value: a collage of conflicting voices, this is not so much the whole history of pop, as the whole history of everything, set to music.



Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend, who in 1965 proclaimed: "We stand for pop art behaviour. We live pop art"

They all fall down

■ POLLEN
By Jeff Noon
Ringpull Fiction, £14.99

A THREE-page nasal explosion introduces *Pollen*, a novel that is as weird as it is wonderful, depicting a Manchester of the future threatened by a rising pollen count.

The Mancunians have changed a little, with fur on their faces and a tendency to talk to machines, since the citizens are formed from the interminglings of humans, animals and computer software.

This might all sound like science fiction at its most unlikely, but Jeff Noon's second novel is surprising in its subtlety and deftness of characterisation. While everywhere people are collapsing in sneezing bouts, the story depicts a woman's pursuit of the murderer of her cab-driver lover. Her journey through the urban badlands is set against a mood of over-ripe corruption, described with lyricism and wit.

There is a druggy atmosphere to the writing as the city approaches breakdown and the half-dog, half-human police try to block the uncovering of the roots of the murder and the source of the plague.

Noon's first novel won the Arthur C. Clarke Award for science fiction, and this work is set to increase his admirers.

SEAN COUGHLAN

The nun and the jailbird

■ SACRED AND PROFANE
By Marcelle Bernstein
Doubleday, £15.99

TWO women, both young, both introverts. One is a nun; one is a lifer in Holloway Jail. They share a terrible past and an inability to break free from it, or from one another, despite a 14-year separation. Hence the setting for a psychological thriller and an exploration of prisons both actual and metaphorical.

The thriller bit is good, but the premise that religious life is as much a prisoner of the soul as jail depends upon what one thinks of religious life. Marcelle Bernstein has a serious but prurient attitude towards it, and there is much in *Sacred and Profane* to suggest that she believes that sacrifice and repression are the same thing, and that the sacrifice of the expression of sexuality (as opposed, say, to the expression of talents or ideas) makes for the greatest repression of all. In this way, Bernstein's narrative drive is tedious, and too often she makes for clichés, rather than demanding or challenging insights.



Bernstein: ear for dialogue

Bernstein writes well about people, and she has a good ear for dialogue: her scenes inside Holloway prison are convincing. However, as far as ideas are concerned she confines herself to stereotypes, and her prose is too full of inconsequential metaphors. For example, all three main characters either love being in, or are terrified of, water. Signifying what? Still, it makes for a lot of water imagery, and some nice wet nearly-love scenes. And I do wish she wouldn't use images that have no resonance for the reader, such as "The moth stirred and opened wings the colour of memory."

This is a good book, and I enjoyed it, but I did long for less of the water imagery and less sexual yearning of the suddenly-too-tight-trousers variety. Perhaps when *Sacred and Profane* is made into the inevitable television dramatisation, with much knitting of brows and kissing in ponds, I shall be enlightened.

MARY LOUDON

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

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1	THE SEVENTH SCROLL **Wilbur Smith** *(Macmillan)*	£15.99	1	3
2	FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS **Graham Hancock** *(Heinemann)*	£16.99	2	3
3	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£16.99	5	13
4	HIGH FIDELITY **Nick Hornby** *(Gollancz)*	£14.99	6	4
5	WISDEN CRICKETER'S ALMANAC 1995 *(Wisden)*	£23.50	9	2
6	THE BEST OF FRIENDS **Joanna Trollope** *(Bloomsbury)*	£14.99	3	5
7	AS IT SEEMED TO ME **John Cole** *(Weidenfeld)*	£20	0	1
8	KILLING ZONE **Harry McCallian** *(Bloomsbury)*	£16.99	0	1
9	TAKE IT LIKE A MAN **Boy George** *(Sidgwick & Jackson)*	£14.99	0	1
10	SHARPE'S BATTLE **Bernard Cornwell** *(HarperCollins)*	£9.99	0	1

PAPERBACK

1	THE CHAMBER **John Grisham** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	1	4
2	A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME **Stephen Hawking** *(Bantam)*	£6.99	2	4
3	THE X FILES **Charles Grant** *(HarperCollins)*	£4.99	4	2
4	TOM CLANCY'S OP CENTRE **Tom Clancy** *(HarperCollins)*	£4.99	5	4
5	ORIGINAL SIN **P. D. James** *(Faber)*	£8.99	15	2
6	EVERVILLE **Clive Barker** *(HarperCollins)*	£5.99	0	1
7	PLAYFAIR CRICKET ANNUAL 1995 **Bill Frindall** *(Headline)*	£4.50	12	2
8	LETTERS FROM LONDON 1990-1995 **Julian Barnes** *(Picador)*	£6.99	3	2
9	ACID HOUSE **Irvine Welsh** *(Vintage)*	£5.99	0	1
10	THE HIPPOPOTAMUS **Stephen Fry** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	6	7

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'INGENIOUS...' The Times



JILL PATON WALSH

Knowledge of Angels

The novel that should have won the Booker Prize?

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OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK

NEW NOVELS IN BRIEF

■ WALLS OF GLASS
By Amanda Brookfield
Sceptre, £16.99
BROOKFIELD'S likeable thirtysomething heroine, Jane, leaves her selfish husband to embark on the single life. She discovers that, with two small children and no job, this is harder than she imagines. Things go from bad to worse when her former husband, now remarried, tries to take their son away from her. A perceptive and very readable account of the strains of marital breakdown.

■ HIS CHRISTMAS BOX
By Julian Fane
Constable, £15.99
THE hero of Fane's adroit social comedy, Willoughby Todd, is a retired military man supporting a wife, mistress and several grown-up children. As a Lloyd's name he believes his financial future to be secure; when this turns out not to be the case, he is forced to reconsider everything. In the process he discovers that only the very wealthy can afford to treat money as unimportant.

■ THE CHEQUER BOARD
By Sybil Marshall
Michael Joseph, £14.99
MARSHALL'S short stories deal with village life in a timeless rural setting, but where the resemblance to the *Miss Read* stories ends. The first story, set in a vicarage, deals with snobbery, fraud and suicide; the rest offer a similarly uncompromising view of life. They are written in a matter-of-fact style alleviated by moments of dry humour.

■ THIRD AND INDIANA
By Steve Lopez
Viking, £10.99
THIS first novel, which is set in the mean streets of Philadelphia, concerns a range of lowlife characters, including 12-year-old Gabriel, and his mother Ofelia, who finds herself fighting for her son's allegiance with an evil drug baron. The author writes plausibly and well about his chosen territory, managing to invest the grim reality of his characters' lives with humour and optimism.

■ VINNIE GOT BLOWN AWAY
By Jeremy Cameron
Touchstone, £9.99
A TEENAGE petty criminal gets out of his depth as major league drug dealers step into his East London territory in this tale of betrayal, revenge and honour among thieves. Jeremy Cameron's first novel presents an energetic subculture of crimes committed in hot cars and cold blood, all described in the words of a young crook. But the novel gets stuck going in circles before running out of fuel.

CHRISTINA KONING and SEAN COUGHLAN

NEW IN PAPERBACK

■ *THE WATERWORKS*
By E. L. Doctorow
Picador, £5.99
THE year is 1871: the scene, the brooding gaslit streets of New York. A newspaper editor investigates the disappearance of his most promising young freelance who has vanished suddenly after claiming to have seen his recently deceased father alive again. As the mystery unfurls amid a cast of gothic characters, what emerges is as compelling as it is horrifying. Doctorow's vivid historical imagination not only breathes new life into an intriguing era, but also relates it to our own.

■ *EATING PAVLOVA*
By D. M. Thomas
Sceptre, £5.99
AS Sigmund Freud lies dying in Hampstead, nursed by his daughter, he reviews his life, mixing past with present, fantasy with reality. Incest abounds and, with every female character reduced to a set of voracious genitalia, the book is as characteristic of its author as its subject. Thomas's Freud seems oddly detached from humanity, though he does predict the advent of rampant feminism and child-abuse witchhunts. The imagery is gross, but there is food for thought.



Jill Paton Walsh: published her novel herself

■ KNOWLEDGE OF ANGELS
By Jill Paton Walsh
Black Swan, £6.99
HAVING been turned down by 14 publishers, Walsh resorted to publishing this novel herself. It went on to win a place on the Booker shortlist last year.

Knowledge of Angels is a combination of medieval thriller and philosophical fable. The ordered, Christian civilisation of a remote Mediterranean island is disrupted by the arrival of two strangers: one, a 12-year-old girl abandoned at birth to be reared by mountain wolves, the other a cultured but atheistic castaway, rescued from the sea by fishermen.

The unusual pair become the focus of a complex argument about the existence of God. But when their presences challenge the established orders of church and state, the dark and predatory forces of the Inquisition are roused. What begins as cerebral debate ends as a matter of life and death.



■ BETRAYALS
By Charles Palliser
Vintage, £5.99
PALLISER is a self-consciously abstruse novelist. He teases the reader, laying false trails, employing narrators who are later deemed unreliable. And yet beneath this rubble of post-modern tricks is an exciting thriller, structured as a series of ten episodes interconnected by the theme of betrayal. It is just a pity Palliser is unable to suppress his urge to impress.

■ HOW TO TRAVEL WITH A SALMON and other essays
By Umberto Eco
Minerva, £6.99
THE tone of these essays is wry, detached, amused. Eco writes about eating a meal on an aeroplane, or receiving a fax, with the same passion and erudition he might once have reserved for a discussion of *King Lear* — and this is precisely his point. For in the age of cultural materialism everything is up for grabs, nothing is intrinsically better than anything else. Eco exploits this position with effortless brio.

■ RIPTIDE
By Peter Benson
Sceptre, £5.99
BENSON's work has been notable for its stirring portrayals of rites of passage and sexual awakenings, but this one misses the wave pretty badly. The story of a young man's quest to fill the void left by a dead father and an errant mother disappears in a great froth of sex 'n' surfing on the rugged Cornish coastline.

● *Contributors: Rachel Campbell-Johnston, Nicki Household, Jason Cowley, Jake Michie*



Once roaming in their millions from Syria to China, and now competing with man for space, barely 50,000 elephants survive in the whole of Asia

Cry from a continent

Brian Jackman on a journey across India by elephant

An elephant is a wondrous beast. With its trunk, powered by 100,000 muscles, it can uproot a tree or pluck a pip from an orange. Its sneeze can knock out a dog.

Mark Shand thought he knew a thing or two about elephants. A few years ago, he impulsively bought an elephant called Tara and rode her 800 miles across India — a journey celebrated in his previous bestseller, *Travels on my Elephant*.

Home again after his adventures, he pined for India and for Tara. For hours on end, he rode disconsolately around his flat on a large toy elephant on wheels. Then a film producer called him. Would he make a second journey by elephant across India for a television documentary?

Back in India he meets up with his photographer friend, *Aditya Patankar, a Maratha* nobleman with a sense of humour as quick as a striking cobra. This time they are joined by a third party in the diminutive guise of Parbati Barua, the ultimate elephant guru. Only in India would you find such an extraordinary character as Parbati; a waif with laser eyes and an iron will, given to wearing a pair of razor-sharp kukris that dangle from her waist like a gunslinger's six-shooters.

Having spent her working life with elephants in the jungles of Bengal and Assam, Parbati is an expert on elephant lore. "Elephants are cleverer than us," she tells Shand. But, on this point at least, Tara had already shown him a glimpse of elephant wisdom. Once, being forced to walk too fast down a rocky road, Tara picked up some stones in her trunk and placed them on her head to let Shand know her feet were hurting.

Under Parbati's tutelage, Shand signs on as a *chaarkatiya*, an apprentice mahout, fit only to gather food for the elephants. Together they set out on a three-month journey across Bengal, heading for the jungles of Assam. Their transport is a pair of elephants, long-legged Lakhi and her sister, the pale-eyed, eternally *hungry Kanchen*. "My sweeties," Parbati calls them.

Once again, Shand has come back from India with a ripping yarn: a tale of men, mahouts, movies and magic, told with wit and affection. At times he is wonderfully evocative, as when he describes the golden light of *gau-dhuli*, the hour of the cattle dust. But there is also a dark shadow which dominates the story. The Asian elephant is in trouble.

Once Asian elephants roamed in their millions from Syria to China. Now, in the whole of Asia, barely 50,000 survive. In modern India, whose population explodes each year with another 20 million people, there is nowhere left for them to hide. Every year in the tea gardens of Bengal, elephants and people are killing each other as they compete for space at the edges of the shrinking forest.

Even the national parks are no longer safe. Shand had hoped to visit Manas national park in Assam; but its jungles are now full of terrorists and poachers who kidnap foreigners and murder forest officers.

Shand's plea for these giant creatures is a cry from the heart of a continent whose last wilderness is being lost, and is all the more powerful because of his rare understanding of India and her people.

■ QUEEN OF THE ELEPHANTS
By Mark Shand
Jonathan Cape, £15.99

● Queen of the Elephants, *a two-hour film of the journey is on the Discovery Channel on May 14*

A crime novelist expresses anger about justice and the judicial system

Wanting nothing but the truth

■ THE SCOLD'S BRIDLE
By Minette Walters
Pan paperback, £4.99

CONSIDER the evidence. Within three years of publishing *The Ice House*, the winner of the John Creasey Award for Best First Crime Novel, Minette Walters is published in 24 languages. Her second novel, *The Sculptress*, won America's much coveted Edgar Allen Poe Award and has been bought by BBC Television. The third, *The Scold's Bridle*, which is out in paperback this week, won the Crime Writers Association's Gold Dagger.

"I can't believe it," says Walters, who has just finished correcting the proofs of her fourth novel, *The Dark Room*. "When I started writing, I didn't even know you could get prizes for crime novels. To have won three is more than I ever expected — it's unbelievable, especially in a genre that's the most crowded in all of literature and where the standards are so high."

Presenting her with the Gold Dagger last month, Rabbi Julia Neuberger spoke up passionately for crime writing which, she said, was often "the best form of moral and philosophical debate". Walters's fiction exemplifies her point: "All my books are about the search for truth."

A prison visitor, she assumes nothing about the convicts and former convicts with whom she is in contact. "It is very difficult to tell if someone is telling the truth. An accomplished liar will be very convincing indeed. You have to try and remain objective and wait for the evidence. But then, how do you know whether or not someone has monkeyed around with the evidence? And what, anyway, is truth?"

Like all good writers, Walters is an observer. "I'm eclectic. I suppose writers are always opinionated," she continues, lamenting the inability of so many individuals to propose an original thought. "I never come up with a plot; I simply have an idea." Thus, *The Scold's Bridle* is about familial repression. *The Sculptress* is about her dislike of labels. "All my writing is about the importance of tolerance. I hate the idea that you judge a person without even speaking to them."



Walters: a prize per novel

Urbane, vivacious and petite, Walters lives in Hampshire with her husband Alec and sons Roland, 15, and Philip, 13. Educated at Godolphin, she wrote even as a young child and, after studying French at Durham University, took a sub-editing job on *Woman's Weekly*. An editor after two years, she was responsible for the eight novelettes published monthly by *Woman's Weekly Library*. "I had to read so many manuscripts and, eventually, I decided I could do better," she recalls, acknowledging the discipline of a 30,000-word form which precluded sex and alcohol.

Married and loathing pregnancy, Walters stopped writing and, for a time, involved herself in local politics, though she says now she is much too anarchic to toe a party line. Then, in the late 1980s, with the children at school, she sat down and began to write *The Ice House*. Jane Gregory, the literary agent to whom she sent the manuscript, remembers that: "I knew immediately that Minette would be a star, though it's amazing how quickly she's come to be so highly regarded throughout the world."

Through her fiction, Walters takes a metaphorical hammer to the judicial system. "I'm depressed and angry," she concludes, citing the O. J. Simpson trial and the Nicholas Ingram case, about which she protested to the Governor of Georgia. "I don't believe in capital punishment and I'm very angry about justice and the judicial system. There is no justice, so how can you persuade the under-class — and I hate to put it that way, but I think there is now an under-class — that middle-class values are worth attending to?"

LIZ THOMSON

When killing is in the line of duty

A former member of the SAS and the Royal Ulster Constabulary describes his missions abroad

IT SEEMS barely credible for one man to have crammed so much violence into his life. The career of Harry McCallion has involved killing and more killing, although all of it is strictly in the line of duty.

Recently there has been a plethora of books written by former members of special forces, especially the SAS, who have emerged from their covert lives to reveal their acts of derring-do, often to the disquiet of their former employers.

The most successful example was *Bravo Two Zero*, by Andy McNab, a gripping account of the disastrous setbacks suffered by an SAS patrol behind Iraqi lines during the 1991 Gulf War.

The latest blood and guts story is not in that league, yet in his own way McCallion has succeeded in giving an extraordinary insight into the psychology of a man who has survived despite deliberately choosing to live as dangerous a life as possible.

■ KILLING ZONE
By Harry McCallion
Bloomsbury, £15.99

McCallion, the son of a Glasgow gangster, served seven years with the Parachute Regiment, two years of sabotage and killing missions with the South African special forces, six years with the SAS, and another six years with the Royal Ulster Constabulary during some of the most serious terrorist incidents, before finally hanging up his guns and studying for the bar.

He reveals that he was a member of a South African undercover unit that linked up with the Rhodesian SAS in 1978 in a doomed mission codenamed Operation Milk Float to assassinate Robert Mugabe — later to become Prime Minister of Zimbabwe — and Joshua Nkomo, his political rival.

McCallion's tales of training in the SAS follow a familiar pattern of endurance and human endeavour. But it is his experiences as a Royal Ulster Constabulary officer in Belfast which provide the most interesting insight into how a man trained to destroy his enemy has to restrain his natural tendencies in an environment where known terrorists are able to walk free on the streets.

MICHAEL EVANS

TEENAGE FICTION

It's a boys' world

IT CANNOT be by chance that some of the best current novels for the under-15s are for the boys. The idea that reading is a pallid attraction compared with the heady welter of activities available to teenage boys has long been responsible for limited choice and crudely aggressive heroes. Happily, authors who combine suspense with more than a passing insight into the psyche of adolescent boys have recently brought some much needed variety.

Among them is Nicholas Wilde, whose fourth novel, **Eye of the Storm** (Collins, £8), shows a sensitive understanding of the fact that a tough adolescent image can often camouflage fears. Motorbike-loving Rory, secretly afraid of the dark, is thrown together with his new stepbrother, Ashton, wearer of the ever-immaculate T-shirt. When the boys are isolated in the Welsh borders, their rivalries culminate in a dangerous rock-climbing episode with Rory's dark, angry feelings urging him on to do dark, angry things. Male bonding eventually succeeds.

There is a firm belief in the book trade that nothing can make boys between the ages of ten and 14 buy a book with a girl on the cover. The boy on the cover of **The Cellar Lad** by Theresa Tomlinson (Julia Macrae, £9.99), like the girl on the cover of Tomlinson's previous novel, *The Herring Girls*, is representative of child workers in the 19th century. In *The Cellar Lad*, a similar story, Ben Sterndale is 11 when he starts his first "proper job" at the steelworks. Illustrated with local-history photographs and set at the time of the Chartist movement, Ben's story with its distinctive characters and varied family relationships is far from being just another dose of moral or political cod-liver oil.

The question of whether computer games effectively shut off all other forms of human discourse is currently a minefield of political correctness. Circling warily round the topic, **Matt's Million** by Andrew Norris (Hamish Hamilton, £9.99) explores what happens when a schoolboy's game invention results in a seven-figure royalty cheque. From chauffeur-driven Rolls Royces to reluctant philanthropy, Matthew's spending round is reasonably entertaining. Surprisingly, though, he is never ripped off, the absence of villains leading to ultimate blandness.

On the face of it, **The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew** by the late screenwriter Robert Bolt (Cape, £9.99) is a boys' book of the old school. But in a medieval adventure of eccentric knights, wily dragons and hobgoblins of "loose proclivities", Bolt's adaptation of his original stage play has a charm which defies age and gender categories.

Wolfecho by Roger J. Green (Oxford, £5.99) cleverly combines penetrating realism with a thrilling historical ghost story. Thirteen-year-old Scot has fallen out with his father — a body-building fanatic addicted to war videos — when he picks up some vibes in his home town, an urban sprawl built on Norman remains. When Scott is drawn back into the past existence of a savage Norman duke, his shifts in time between the 11th and 20th centuries are so vividly drawn that by the end of the book you do not doubt that you have just read a classic. The mantle of C. S. Lewis hangs over this talented author.

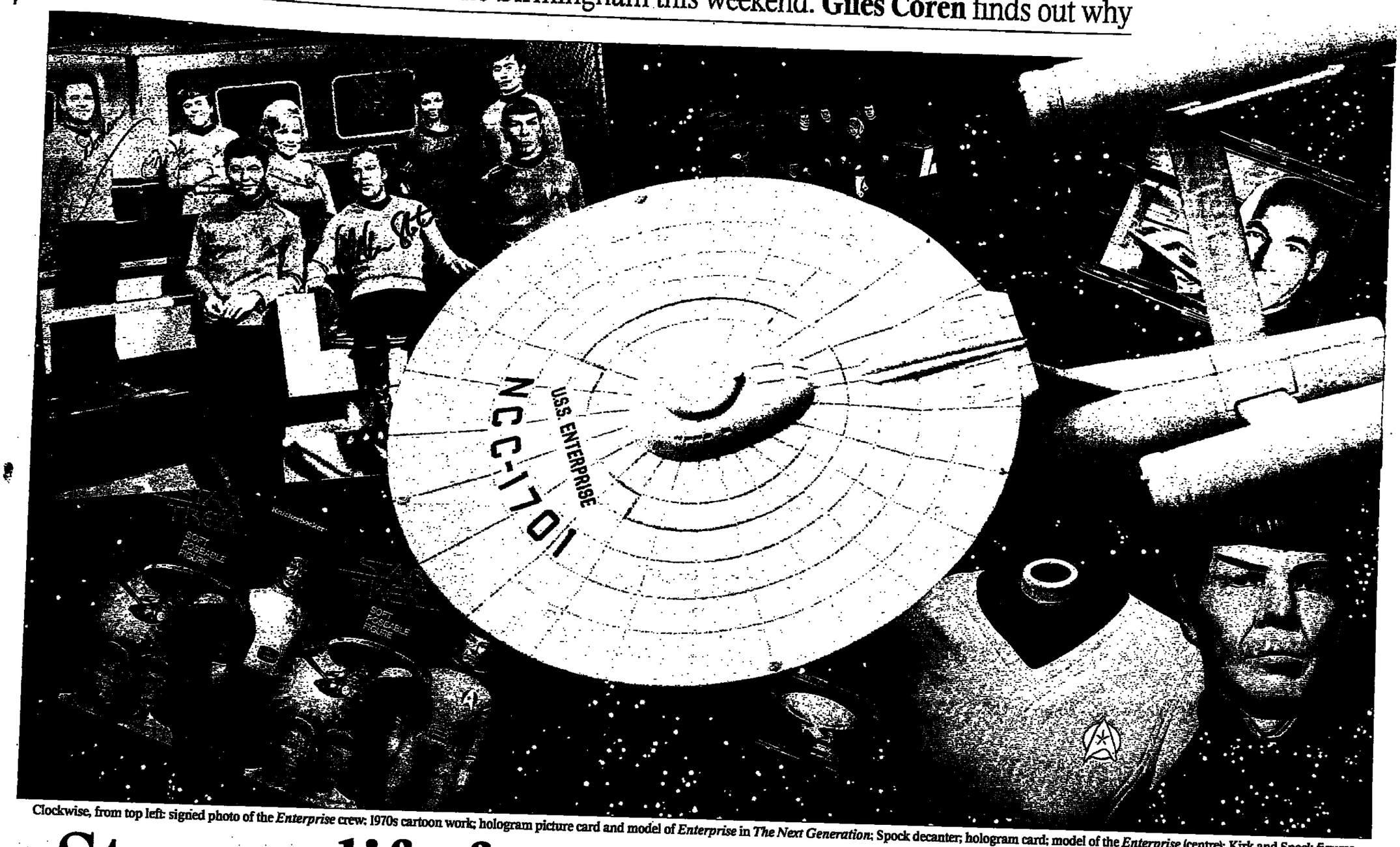
Told in a quick-witted style with gripping intimacy, **Ten Hours to Live** by the youthful agony uncle Pete Johnson (Mammoth, £3.50) is a tale of shattered love between Ben, a "Sir Lancelot" figure, and Sophie, an overwhelmed schoolgirl who, as he sadly records, "has taken all my niceness away". Not Tennyson, but with so few books that reflect the transparent concerns of teenagers without resorting to sex and violence, it is better than Stephen King.

MAUREEN OWEN

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هكذا من الأصل

Oddly attired people will beam into Birmingham this weekend. **Giles Coren** finds out why



Clockwise, from top left: signed photo of the *Enterprise* crew; 1970s cartoon work; hologram picture card and model of *Enterprise* in *The Next Generation*; Spock decanter; hologram card; model of the *Enterprise* (centre); Kirk and Spock figures

Strange life forms on a mission for memorabilia

When a man with a heavily scarred prosthetic forehead made of brown latex says to you, "really, we are no different from stamp collectors", it is reasonable to argue that he is wrong. It happened to me at a comic mart a couple of years ago, and I did.

We all know about "trekkies", those peculiar men and women who dress up as Klingons or as Captain James Tiberius Kirk and go to special nightclubs to talk warp-speeds and phasers with other peculiar people dressed up as Bones, Scotty, and Sulu. We are aware that there is a dictionary and phrase book of Klingon, and that many people speak it fluently, meeting at seminars of the self-styled Klingon University to discuss niceties of pronunciation.

Thousands of them will be at the Birmingham NEC this weekend for Memorabilia '95, Europe's largest pop culture event, to buy and sell their wares. While the event incorporates pop music, television, film, comic, and science-fiction collectables, all of which are part of the boom in post-1950s memorabilia, by far the greatest number of visitors will be trekkers (a term they accept, if only as preferable to "trekkie") — easily outdoing their nearest competitors in fandom, the followers of *Star Wars* and *Doctor Who*.

The craze has existed in Britain since the early 1980s, according to Rob Byron of Time Trek, a specialist store in Kent. "There was a resurgence of interest with *Star Trek: The Next Generation* later in the decade," he explains (although he calls the series "*Next Gen*", like all enthusiasts), "and now people collect things relating not only to the 1960s series and to *Next Gen*, but to *Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager*, two other *Trek*-related series, as well as film merchandise."

"People collect the figures and toys, the magazines, the books and videos, all of which are on sale at our shop, as well as older items such as food promotions and bubble gum cards from the 1960s. Original props are rarer still," he says. The 400 phasers from the first series were all trashed after filming, and much of what is available has been removed from sets illegally.

Mr Byron is unable to explain the spread of *Trek* appeal, nor can he describe a typical collector. "Some are people who discover a favourite childhood toy in the attic and start from there. Others remember a toy and try to buy it again, only to discover the wealth of merchandise now on the market. There are men in suits who come in because they have seen their kids watching *Next Gen* and realised how good it is. There are eight-year-olds, and there are middle-aged women."



JAMES MORGAN

Larry Heinrich with newer additions to his £30,000-worth of *Star Trek* collectables

> A useful guideline is that the nastier an item is, the more it will be worth

More frustratingly for the uninitiated earthman, Mr Byron cannot offer a clue to the best-value buys, saying only that most trekkers buy for love rather than profit.

Larry Heinrich, who will tend his Totally Trek stall at the NEC, has a collection worth about £30,000. Mr Heinrich, who works for "a major clearing bank", says "a useful guideline is that the cheaper and nastier an item is, the more it will be worth, because people are more likely to have thrown nasty things away". By way of example, he produces a decanter in the form of a bust of Mr Spock, pulling off the head to reveal a cork. "This is lovely," he says, "but is worth only about £70. A similar object was made of the whole Spock figure, painted gold — it was disgusting but is now worth about £700."

Cheap items in Mr Heinrich's collection include an empty cardboard box which once held *Star Trek* Refreshers (£25); a couple of empty boxes of *Star Trek* Crackers (£75); and a box of Kelloggs Sugar Smacks from 1969, featuring Spock on the front (£30).

A 1969 bubblegum wrapper, once available for 3d, is now worth £25 and doesn't even contain gum anymore. Mr Heinrich also has 4,000 picture cards that used to come with the bubble gum worth about £5,000 in total, and original *Star Trek* artwork from the 1971 comic *TV21* (£1,500). A full-size *Star Trek* pinball machine is worth only £850 and is considerably harder to transport.

There are two five-inch figures, of an Andorian and a Romulan, worth £900 the pair — considerably more than the signed photo of the *Enterprise* crew, or the signed copy of Nichelle Nichols's autobiography *Beyond Uhura*, but not as much as a shirt that once belonged to Sulu, which Larry saw auctioned in America. "It went for £1,500," he says, "but only because it had an authentication letter from Dorothy Fontana, the associate producer. They are not that rare because shirts were changed every couple of episodes so there are a lot of them. A fully authenticated original phaser gun, however, if it was close-up quality rather than one made for extras, would be worth thousands."

A 1976 toy Trekulator calculator is worth £75; a Tricorder (the thing Spock uses for scanning new planets) £125; and the walkie-talkie more than £100 — all objects which, in their true incarnations, are the stuff of which trekkers' dreams are made.

For a more down-to-earth start to a collection, however, you need look no further than Weetabix boxes currently on sale at your local grocers. "There are two cards in each 48-biscuit box and ten cards in all." Why, then, were there dozens of cereal packets piled on his desk? "Well, you never know which ones you are going to get; you could buy 50 boxes and still have only nine different cards. It can get quite expensive." Not quite enough, though, to cost you the shirt off Sulu's back.

Trekkers' tips



Model of an Andorian



A Romulan figurine

☐ **Memorabilia '95** is at The NEC, Birmingham, today and tomorrow, from 10am-5pm. Adults £3; concessions £2. For further information telephone 01462 683965.

☐ **Time Trek**: 46, High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EG (0181-313 0677).

☐ **The Star Trek Official UK Fan Club**, PO Box 355, Bushey, Watford, WD2 2NA. The annual subscription costs £10.

☐ ***Greenberg's Guide to Star Trek Collectables*** (Greenberg Publications, Sykesville, Maryland, 1990) is a three-volume A-Z guide to paraphernalia and costs £11.99 each for volumes I and II, and £13.95 for volume III. Available from sci-fi, comic, and film shops.

SALEROOM

☐ Winston Churchill memorabilia is included in the **T. Vennett-Smith of Nottingham's** autograph sale on Wednesday. A signed sepia photograph of the wartime Prime Minister is £500 to £700, while an autograph is £350 to £450. The sale also includes a rare signed photograph of Glen Miller estimated at £100 to £200, but it is in poor condition.

☐ A two-foot long Georgian signal cannon is valued at around £1,250 at **Wallis & Wallis's** auctions at Lewes, East Sussex, on Wednesday. Other attractions at this spring militaria sale are an Imperial Russian lifeguard helmet (£7,000) and a cased Adams revolver (£1,250).

☐ Collectors may pay slightly over the odds for the furniture, ceramics and works of art at the **British Antique Dealers' Fair** in London on Wednesday, but each item has been vetted for authenticity. Special events include wine tastings and masterclasses.

☐ **Bonhams** in London becomes a showcase for British contemporary decorative art from Thursday at its fourth annual selling exhibition of recent work. The sale includes works by well-known names Ron Arad, Tom Dixon and Danny Lane (£1,950 to £5,338), as well as new names.

☐ Mussolini's Alfa Romeo is for sale at **Coys of Kensington** on Thursday (£130,000 to £150,000), with the car's original log book.

☐ Vincent Van Gogh's *Young Man With A Cap* is at **Christie's** New York's spring Impressionist sale on Thursday, the most important work by the artist to appear at auction since his *Portrait of Dr Gachet* fetched £49.7 million in 1990 and helped boost the flagging Impressionist market. An estimated £10 million-worth of paintings by Picasso, Renoir and Matisse are to be offered by Pamela Harriman, mother of Tory MP Winston Churchill.

● *T. Vennett-Smith, Grandstand Nottingham Racecourse, Colwick, Nottingham (information 0115 9830541); Wallis & Wallis, West Street Auction Galleries, Lewes, Sussex (01273 480208). British Antique Dealers' Fair, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London SW3 (0171-589 6108); Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (0171-393 3930); Coys of Kensington: sale at Chiswick House, London (0171-584 7444). Christie's New York, 502 Park Avenue, New York, (001 212 546 1119).*

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

THE TIMES

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3/4 beds, all en-suite. Or retirement luxury 2 storey apt. + 4 separate studio apts (income of £10,000pa). Tranquil setting, 1 acre + more? £149,000.
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HINGHAM NORFOLK
Grade II Listed Town House in beautiful Georgian village. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Many Exposed timbers & Inglenook fireplaces. Attractive Pine kitchen. Remote Control Double garage. Walled garden.
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Delightful neo-Georgian detached house in quiet Close. 5 bedrooms, en-suite, bathroom, dining room, lounge, study, cloakroom.
Built in workshop, double garage. Rear pillared and part covered patio with 2 mature vines. GCH. All services.
£185,000 ono (freehold)
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Brochure on request

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Stone cottage, idyllic rural location. 2 double bedrooms, detached stone garage. Large garden with beautiful views across pond.
£129,950.
Tel: 0181 392 1528

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Lux 1st flr flt in quiet resid. area. 3 mins fr hovercraft, rail to new Ryde Marina. Fly furn. flt, fitted with gd quality carpets throughout, has 2 dbl bdrms, bthrm, kit & lge lnge. All rms have easist. free UVPC dbl glazed tilt & turn wdws. Entrance is through lge conservatory. £43,000
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TEWIN WOOD WELWYN
Detached house, 4 beds, 3 bath, 4 reception, fitted kitchen/utility, dble garage. 2/3 acre corner wooded plot, private roads, BR 1 mile, Kings X 25 min, M25 15 min, A1M 6 min.
Open viewing 7 May 11-5pm or by appt
OIRO £259,000
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5 bed barn conversion Superb and very spacious. Kitchen/breakfast room, 3 receptions, 2 beds with ensuite, family bathroom, utility, 2 WC. Set in ½ acre. fabulous views, double garage.
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Victorian coach style family house. 4 recepts, 5 beds, 2 baths set in delightful semi-walled gardens. Separate 2 bed grd flr flat. 2,000 sq ft brick stable block & paddocks.
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HISTORIC Parsonage. Impressive 6 bd hse. O.I.R.O. £150k. New 4 bd character hse in old walled gdn. £139,500. Bath Crewkerne. Barn & stables 1½ acres. Village location. 8 mins A303. P.O.A. 01460 75816

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OIRO £520,000
Call After 6 pm
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Picturesque village of Ovingdean. Conservation area close to Downs. Brighton Marina 5 mins. Feature 32' lounge, 15' vaulted beamed ceiling, Inglenook Fireplace, dble garage, 3 beds, 2 bath, sep wc, gch, dble glazed, surrounded by flat mature gdn.
Private sale £187,000.
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EASTBOURNE COAST
300 yds seafront
G.F.Flat, 3 bed 30ft lounge, garden,small office, near town, Saffrons & Downs.
£75,000
0171 599 4612 day

CHICHESTER 4m fine georgian det hse regency interior 5/6 beds 4/5 recep. superb lge octagonal marble floored room £175k lovely ext views dble det gge 1 acre v.good security £250,000 tel 01243 544472 fax 544473 m 0850 963962

Grade II Listed coach hse Chichester 4m Lge proportions. 4 recs 4/5 beds 3 baths Fully restored ½ acre d/gge gd security £325,000 Tel: 0850 963962 or 01243 544472

1730 Listed det single storey villa regency facade fully restored 2 beds 2 baths L rec L conv attic superb ext views gge Not to be missed good security £175,000 0850 963962/01243 544472

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£79,950
Tel: 01570 422 436 Eve.
01570 424 715 Day.

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ASTLEY. Substantial stone built house. 2 reception. dining room. kit. 6 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. Centrally located with easy access to motorway, main line station and Birmingharns International Airport. Arbury Estate Office 01676 540629

WILTSHIRE

PEWSEY VALE
Detached Character Cottage Exposed beams, Inglenook etc. Secluded position in quiet no through road village with superb views. 2 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions
Planning permission for extension
£108,000
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WARMINSTER
2 miles. Modern family house. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 receptions, well-established secluded gardens with greenhouse, workshop, summerhouse & garage. £140,000.
Tel: 0171 720 6926

WEST WILTS
Lot 1. Five Bedroom Period Farmhouse with 3 Acres - £295,000.
Lot 2. Extensive range of modern farmbuildings with 28 Acres - £95,000.
NORTH WILTS
M4(J17)3 miles. Detached 5 bed modern residence, large Garage /Workshop (suitable for alternative use subject to p.p.) stables, garden and paddocks of nearly 1 acre. £225,000.
Alder King Rural Surveyors (01249) 448588

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Beautifully restored
17th C. listed semi-detached cottage in conservation area close to Lyncock NT village and M4, 3 bed 2 bath 2 recep, inglenook fireplace, exposed beams, downstairs WC, utility, conservatory, CH large mature garden countryside views, wealth of character
£139,950
01249 714 443

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BESSACAR Doncaster.
Large traditional 4 bedroom detached house, fully modernised with FGCH. Garage & hard standing large mature private garden. Quiet residential area, close to schools & amenities. with services to town (2 mls). Easy access to M18/M1 Immediate vacant possession £96,950. For details telephone
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£125,000
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or 0171-704 1876

SETTLE A65 - 10 miles. Skipton A59 17 miles. Dairyhouse Farm, Malham, Settle. About 2,784 acres. Outstanding hill farm with Grade II Listed principal residence (presently divided into 2 flats). 2 detached farm residences, modern traditional range of livestock buildings. 86 units of cow quota & 1,714 units of sheep quota for sale with vesting arrangements as whole or in 3 lots. Dairyhouse Farm will be offered for sale as a whole or in lots by Auction subject to conditions unless sold previously to the Falcon Manor Hotel at Settle at 3pm on Tuesday 30th May 1995. Particulars & viewing arrangements through the Auctioneers Richard Turner & Son 1, Waddington Rd, Clitheroe Tel 01200 22369

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A 3 BEDROOM PERIOD FLAT/ MAISONETTE
with sunny private garden required in Hampstead. St Johns Wood or Little Venice by couple able to purchase right place for immediate cash (no mortgage or chain). A successful negotiation will save you considerable agents fees.
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Luxury 3 bed F/H flat 2 bath (1 s/s) 2 reception. Conservatory & 2 Roof Terraces. Private lift entrance & access to private communal garden. Furnished/Unfurnished
£750 per week ono
Min 12 months
Full references required
No agents
Tel 0171 405 5685 (office hrs)
0868 486341 (other)

ISLINGTON H'BURY HILL
Garden flat s/c, double bed, hall, reception, kitchen, bathroom, laundryroom.
Centrally heated conservatory/ dining room, huge walled garden. Fully furnished.
£250pw neg.
Tel: 0171 224 9719

KENSINGTON
A spacious, well presented house in attractive location. Available to let unfurnished from June. Large reception with conservatory, dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 double bedrooms, study, 2 bathrooms, garden.
£1,000pw
Contact Mr N Sked
0171 722 5383
or 0860 706594

DTZ Debenham Thorpe

Furnished Flats To Let Chester House, Eccleston Place, London SW1
A selection of modern studio, 1 and 2 bedroom flats to let on a long term basis, in this residential building. Amenities include porterage and video entrance phones.
Rentals - Studios £130pw
1 bed £185pw
2 beds £275pw
Belgravia office: tel 0171 235 8088 or fax 0171 823 1913

ACCOMMODATION to let in Hampstead/St Johns Wood. Bonst & Co 0171-431 2000

A luxury one bedroom flat situated in the heart of Bloomsbury. F kitchen. Interior des sitting room, dd bedroom, bathrooms, video entry phone, porter. £280 per week. Frank Harris & Co 0171 408 4444

A two bedroom ground floor WC1 flat in this prestigious portered block. 1 dd bedroom. 1 single with fitted wardrobes, kitchen, bathroom, lounge. To be redecorated. £450 per week. Frank Harris & Co 0171 408 4444

CENTRAL 1 bed furn Flat. Access to communal gdn. Close pk. porters. Occasional w/ends or short lets. Box No 5963

CENTRAL London flat/house lux f/f 1 to 5 bed short/long lets from £280pw. 0171 794 9919.

CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE EC1 one bed flat in block with pool and gym. £880 pcm inc parking min 6 months Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

CHELSEA CLOISTERS Sloane Ave. Studio luxury appartment. Beach kitchen. 24 hr security. Sky TV. £1,350pw. Office facil avail. Tel:01252 715293

CLAPHAM dbl rm to let. Prof f n/s. Lux flat nr amenities. nr tube. £350 pcm. 0181 675 2271

CRAWFORD ST W1 1st dec 3 bed 2 bth flt recep f/f kit porter cons gym & jacuzzi incl Pk avail. £520pw also 2 bed 2 bath £400pw 0171 267 0096

SC1 unfurn 1 bed rec kit bath 1st 3rd flr w/dryer £200pw Hamilton Brooks 0171 638 2163

GLOS: ideal weekend cottage. 3 beds, fully furnished in grounds of C Anne house. £135 pw. 6 months +. 01452 760711

HIGHGATE N6 Ltx 2 bed flat. American shower, balcony, parking. £175pw 081 340 7406

CORNWALL



RENTALS

MAYFAIR 2 bedroom luxury flat fully furnished Curzon St £375pw. Clover St £435pw. Half Moon St £330pw. Long let Ref essential. 0171 355 1150

MAYFAIR 4 bed/1bath lge lux rm. 2 rf ter. gge Short lets av.ail. £670pw 0171 629 0907

SHORT Let nr Windsor Detached Tudor residence secluded in 2 acres. London 20 miles 0421 4 beds, 2 baths shower. 3 recepts, immediately available 3/4 mnths. 0171 730 0257 or 01753 840733

S KEN - Drayton Gardens lux 4 bed 2 bath. Special at £800pw Alison 0171 938 1774

S KEN Roland Way lux 4 bed twnhse gge 2 rec 3 bath (2 e/s) £650pw Alison 0171 938 1774

ST JAMES SW1 L proportioned 1 bed new refurb. kit. bath. prest block. porter. £326pw Angermann Goddard Loyd 0171 409 7303

ST JAMES'S SW1 a selection of short/long apts from £360pw now avail ISJR) 0171 495 6114

YORK STREET W1 a selection of brand new luxury 2 bed 2 bath f/f flats. £550pw long/short Exec Homes 0171 724 9919

YORK ST W1 3 bed flt 2 recep bth f/f kit lift & porter £425pw 0171 267 0086

BALEARICS

MENORCA
Traditional det. villa with circular tower, standing in prominent position above small sheltered sandy beach. Private walled gardens, terraces, palm trees, 5 bedrms, lge lounge, circular kitchen. Superb views, quiet location. Lge gge/boat store.
£175,000 or half share considered.
Tel: 0181 747 8007 anytime

TAYLOR WOODROW Menorca new 2/3 bed apartments on golf course from £48,000 also Majorca luxury apartments close to beaches from £76,000 Ready this summer 0181 893 2424 /2608

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BARBADOS
A private syndicate has formed to purchase a luxury beachside 3 bedrm fully furnished villa in St. James. Stunning location next to the beach. Fitted & furnished to the highest standard. Private plunge pool & jacuzzi. 5 equal shares have been created to provide 10 weeks occupation per annum per shareholder. Remaining shareholdings £65,000 each.
Please tel Peter Shaw
on 0181 948 3211.

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GUERNSEY L'Ercc. Airport 5 mls. Heathrow 55 mins. A spac villa style residence, with historic Martello tower, set in outstanding coastal location. 3 recep rms. Kit, Util rm. 2 bedrms, study/ dress rm. 2 bathrms. Annexe: sit rm, breakfast rm, util rm. 4 bedrms & 2 bathrms. Historic Martello tower with WWII additions & fortifications. About 3.42 acres.
Contact: 01481 646581/65068

FRANCE

LOIRE ATLANTIQUE AREA
6 roomed house in small friendly community. Vgy. Beams to ceiling throughout. Professional refurbishment includes some windows, doors, all new wiring and mains drainage, water supply (hot & cold), bathroom, shower etc. Large garden.
FF 250,000. English owner.
Tel: 01642 370071

PROVENCE
Bastide. At Collobrières. 2 beds ,shower,reception, kitchen, dining. 7 acres. Photos available. Francs 530,000
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In the Heart of the DORDOGNE
8 mls Sarlat. Renovated 16th C farmhouse, Perigordine features, etc, 3 double bedrooms. Set in 4 acres rural farmland. *Magnificent* views. Cottage & barns suitable for conversion. Excellent letting income. Exch. UK property Norfolk/ Northampton or sell for £110,000.
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PROVENCE
A private Corner of Paradise. We are a normal father (61) and son (34) who have found a big idyllic old watermill home by a river, already restored as 3 large flats. We're looking for compatible reliable people to buy it with us and live securely as well contained neighbours.
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Barn conversion + 5 acres. Amazing views. Orchard, vineyard, every facility, GCH, snooker room, sat TV, outbuildings, totally quiet. £79,000 ono. (Fully equipped).
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NEW Luxurious second home afloat. Designed for living, for pleasure and for sumptuous comfort. Try before you buy - Charter for a week or more and enjoy a holiday at the same time. Exceptionally spacious above and below deck. Comprehensively equipped and superbly finished. Four double cabins with ensuite facilities, air conditioning, bow thruster. Tel: 01705 201920 Fax: 01705 201960 For Brochure & Details

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CORFU Village House
Sensitively modernised 3 bedrooms + further potential. 25 mins Corfu Town. 10 mins beaches. Executors sale £60,000
Tel 01293 785353
Fax: 01293 774361

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SW IRELAND Bantry/Kenmare Bay Various luxury new bungalows + Sites. private seafrontage, panoramic view, ideal for yacht/boatmooring. near golf course. mild climate. outstanding private bargain. Tel 00-353-27-65349

ITALY

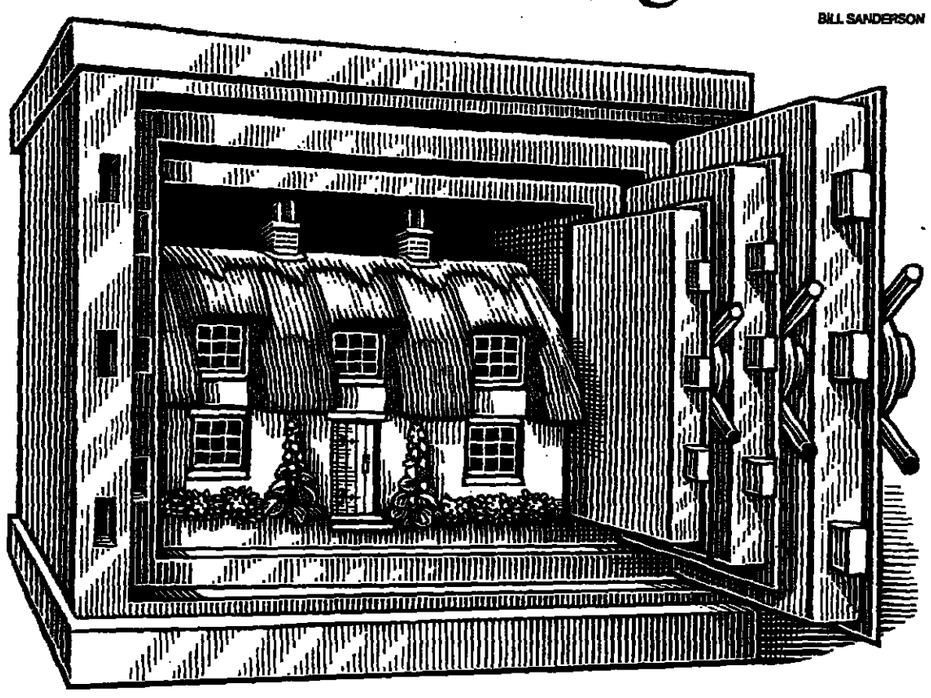
UMBRIA
Artist's 15th C Tower fully restored and furnished 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, *central heating.* Much charm
$90,000 US
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TUSCANY
Experienced developer sells 7 luxury houses in historic rural site San Gimignano 20 mins Siena.
2-4 beds. huge receptions private terraces/gardens mains services, cph, telephone
PLUS

When alarm bells ring for burglars

Timer switches and rambling roses — a guide to making your home secure

BILL SANDERSON



Burglars in towns and cities are having a tougher time of it lately, partly because residents are increasingly security conscious. In rural areas, there are richer pickings. Yet, wherever you live, there can be no room for complacency about the safety of your home from intruders.

Start by consulting the Crime Prevention Officer at the local police station, who can visit your home and provide advice and leaflets (the Metropolitan Police offered me "Beat the Burglar" and "Your Practical Guide to Crime Prevention").

The first recommendation is that your house should appear to be occupied when it is empty. Timer switches turn on lights, radios and even your dishwasher while you're out. Kingshield has a good range of plug-in timer switches, from the simple 24-hour unit to the seven-day timer, which offers up to 12 settings a day over a week (£14.99 and £20.99 from Texas). For centre lights, use the Polycell auto Light Sensor (£14.99 from Texas), which plugs into the light fitting and automatically switches the light on at dusk and off at dawn (they are not suitable for use with dimmer switches). You can also get the programmable Swish autoglide system from Homebase, which will draw your curtains. Rails cost from £31.49, motorised control unit £69.99, remote control £35.99.

Use infra-red exterior security lights as a deterrent, such as the water and vandal-proof Flash Guard 100W body-heat sensing passive infra-red outdoor lamp (£39.99 from Texas). These also alert you to the presence of intruders in the house when you are at home.

It is worth planting a thorny rambling rose or hedge around your boundaries to make intruders think twice about clambering into your garden — but make sure that the front of the house is still visible to passers-by so that a thief cannot work unseen. Houses with high hedges are an obvious target for burglars.

The police also recommend that you have photographs of your valuables. Remember to write the size and describe any distinguishing features on the back of the picture. Use an etching tool to mark items with your postcode. Use an ultra-violet marking pen (Topline UV Property Marker, £1.49 from Texas) only when engraving would reduce the item's value, because the mark can fade.

DOORS

All external doors and frames should be strong, in good condition and of solid core construction, 44mm thick. If a burglar cannot break through a strong door with a good lock, he may try to break down a weak frame. A metal bar round the inside of the frame can prevent this.

Replace glass door panels with laminated glass. Fit five-lever mortice deadlocks to front and back doors (Chubb 3G114, £22.99 from Homebase). Consider, too, automatic deadlocks, which operate when the door is closed but, when locked from outside with a key, cannot be opened from the inside, so preventing a thief who had entered through a window taking your possessions out through a door (Yale autolocking Dead Bolt P66B, £46.95 from Homebase). And, fit and use a door chain.

Check that the door hinges are sturdy and, for additional security, fit hinge bolts or plates to reinforce the hinge side of the door (Chubb Hinge Bolts WS14 pair £4.35. Kickstop Hinge Plates, pair from £13.25 from Homebase). If you have glazed doors, consider fitting laminated glass, which is harder to break.

Get specialist advice on fitting locks to patio doors and ensure that the locksmith you employ is a member of the Master Locksmiths Association. Banham will come to your house (if it is within a 70-mile radius of London) to offer advice, a free quotation and fit locks for you. The cost varies, depending on need.

WINDOWS

A third of all burglars get in through a back window and, the police say, a skilled thief can squeeze in through a gap no bigger than a hand. So make sure that fanlights and skylights are secure. Glue the slats of louvered windows in place with epoxy resin or, better still, replace them with fixed glass. Put a lock on every window — inexpensive locks for all types are available from DIY stores. For a wooden casement window, the consumer magazine *Which?* recommends a Chubb 8K120 (£14.25 for two) or the 8K101 (£5.99). For metal casement windows, Era snaplock 904 (£9). The *Which?* experts were able to force all the locks on test, but a show of security may at least deter the opportunist thief. It is essential to position the locks properly, and for this you will need advice.

GRILLES

The main argument against window grilles is that they may delay or prevent escape from fire. Banham offers made-to-measure diamond mesh hinged grilles to ease window cleaning and emergency exits (prices from £6.40 per square foot unfitted, minimum price £40 plus VAT). The grilles are stove enamelled for a durable finish, usually white, but colours are available at extra cost.

Aluminium security shutters are an alternative but can cost as much as £3,000 for a bay window. For details contact Nationwide Security Blinds (01929 554901) or Cordula (0161 969 4889).

BURGLAR ALARMS

Visible alarms may deter a potential burglar. Whatever type you choose, get specialist advice and several quotes. Ask your insurance company which systems and firms it recommends. Professionally installed alarms should meet BS4737. There are cheap DIY alarms on the market (which should meet BS6707) but make sure you know what you are doing before fitting them yourself — a badly fitted alarm can create as many problems as it solves. One recommended alarm is the RE 3000 (£289.95).

Which? tested alarms installed and maintained by companies including Chubb Alarms, Modern Security Systems and Telecom Security in November 1994 and, overall, were most impressed by the service offered by smaller local firms registered with NACOSS (the National Approved Council for Security Systems).

If you have intruder or fire alarms with automatic phone dialling facilities, check that your alarm company has modified its system to work with the new dialling codes. Unconcerted alarms will not work and your insurance could be invalidated.

A final thought: if you're thinking about fitting a burglar alarm, remember the recent police suggestion that penalties might be considered against owners of alarms which persistently go off for no reason.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

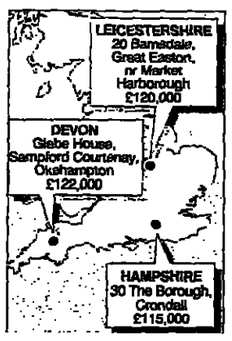
Home security specialists

- ☐ Banham Patent Locks, 0171-622 5151.
- ☐ British Security Industry Association, 01905 21464.
- ☐ Free BT PHONEDAY helpline, 0800 010101
- ☐ Chubb Alarms, 01902 282494. Chubb Locks, 01902 455440.
- ☐ Control Risks Group, 0171-222 1552.
- ☐ Do It All, 0500 300321.
- ☐ ERA, 01922 710222
- ☐ Homebase, 0181-784 7200.
- ☐ Kickstop, 0181-985 3285.
- ☐ Master Locksmiths Association, 01327 262255.
- ☐ NACOSS, 01628 37512.
- ☐ Response Alarms, 01372 744330.
- ☐ Telecom Security, 0181-751 3030.
- ☐ Texas Homecare, 0181-200 0200.
- ☐ Yale Security Products, 01902 366911.



Leicestershire: 20 Barnsdale, Great Easton, near Market Harborough. Grade II listed thatched cottage with garden. Two bedrooms, bathroom, sitting/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room. Parking area. About £120,000 (Savills, 01780 66222).







Hampshire: 30 The Borough, Crondall. Period end-of-terrace cottage in the heart of the village with rear garden overlooking open countryside. Two bedrooms, bathroom, reception room, kitchen and pantry. Garage. About £115,000 (John D. Wood, 01252 737115).



Devon: Glebe House, Sampford Courtenay, Okehampton. Thatched cottage with one-bedroom annexe and rear garden. Four bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen and utility room. Garage. About £122,000 (GA Property Services, 01837 54251).

CHERYL TAYLOR

MANVILLE ROAD, SW17

On the Heaver Estate, a double-fronted Victorian house with considerable ground floor space and a beautiful 63ft x 36ft garden. 7 beds, 3 baths, 3 receps, kit, clkrm, utility rm, cellar.

Freehold £425,000

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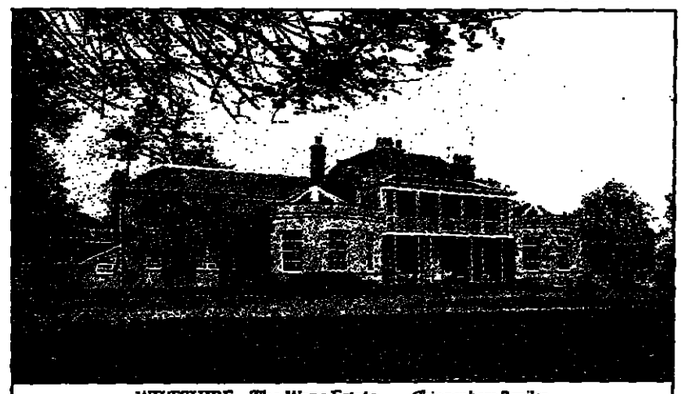
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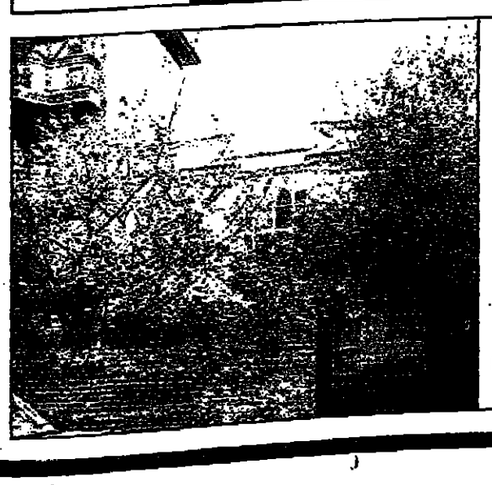


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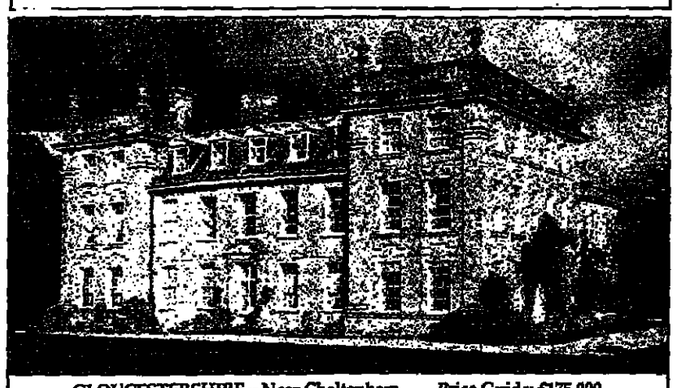


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CENTRAL ASIA: Follow one of the most romantic roads in the world, from Tashkent to Samarkand

Smooth passage on the old Silk Route

There's a new commodity being traded on the old Silk Route, especially the part that snakes its way, 500 miles or so, through Uzbekistan: tourism. Visitors are welcome, and trade is brisk, bringing smiles not just from those who directly benefit but from people in streets and markets everywhere.

Taking photographs in Tashkent's Alaiski Bazaar was problematical, and not only for the danger of running out of film at spice stalls piled high with yellow mustard mountains, black pepper, cayenne, paprika and vanilla. As I paused to snap a mound of pomegranates about the size and shape of the Great Pyramid, the top one was whisked off and handed to me with a beaming smile that dazzled like a flash going off in my face. On its own this wasn't too bad, but as I meandered past the stalls filled with rainbows of spices and orchards of fruit, the lone pomegranate was quickly joined by other gifts: a bag of sweets, two plums, half a dozen tomatoes and a bunch of grapes. I therefore edged rather warily past the meat stalls, where sheeps' heads and hooves were piled into trays, and nibbled my sticky sweets as I watched a troupe of acrobats walking on broken glass, and climbing ladders of swords in a square in the market centre.

The Uzbeks themselves probably feel they are climbing a ladder whose rungs are made of razor-sharp swords, as they emerge from the protective, if restrictive, cloak of communism and try to establish themselves as a Central Asian nation. They do have one great advantage over neighbours such as Kazakhstan to the north and Tajikistan to the south, though: the world has heard of its great Silk Route cities of Tashkent, Bukhara, Khiva and, most golden of all, Samarkand.



It is names like these that will surely bring Western visitors more quickly to Uzbekistan than to the other Central Asian republics which broke free from Moscow in 1991 and now stand surrounded by Russia, China, Iran and Afghanistan. The Silk Route drove straight through Uzbekistan when it was first conceived more than 2,100 years ago, to take Chinese silk and spices to the Roman Empire in exchange for gold and silver, textiles, glass and ceramics. Caravans of camels and laden elephants would plod across the Kizyl-Kum and Kara-Kum deserts of Uzbekistan, heading for Persia but stopping off at towns such as Bukhara and Samarkand.


Spices at the Tashkent bazaar

We headed by coach down that same Silk Road, from the present capital, Tashkent, to Samarkand, the one-time capital of Tamerlane the Great, who was born nearby and is buried there in the Gur Emir mausoleum.

Some of our group of modern travellers reacted better than others to the difficulties of travelling in a new country, where facilities and food are not always what Westerners expect. The meat we were offered could well have been a Mongol horse, who could tell? When we arrived there were two vegetarians in our party; by the third day there were 11. However, the best meals came when traditional Uzbek food was served. You may not expect much from a national dish that is called *plov*, but when you learn that it is pronounced *pilav* and is tender mutton served on a bed of rice with almonds, yoghurt, raisins and spices, you forget the meatballs and cold chips of the previous night and tuck in, toasting your companions with vodka and amazingly tasty Uzbeck champagne.

But a few poor meals and one grubby hotel can't take away any magic from the places themselves. We arrived in Samarkand in the late afternoon and a few of us strolled down to Registan Square, the first sight of which will stay with me forever, even more than the Parthenon and the Pyramids, eclipsing even the natural beauty of moonlight on mountains. The golden sun of late September painted the madrasas (Islamic schools) that line three sides of this huge open square, over 100m across, the light glinting off the blue and turquoise tiles of the domes and minarets.

A mosaic of stars plays around the entrance portals of the 15th-century Ulug Bek madrasa, named after Tamerlane's gifted grandson, an astronomer whose observations and calculations were more accurate than those of Copernicus and Kepler. The remains of Ulug Bek's sextant and observatory were only discovered in 1908, on a hill overlooking Samarkand.

Facing Ulug Bek's madrasa is the Sher Dor ("lion-bearing") madrasa, from the early 17th century, named for the vivid mosaic over its portico. On the third side of Registan is the Tilla Kari madrasa, the gilded mādrasa, another 17th-century building whose Golden Mosque was restored in 1979 using 1,000sq m of gold leaf. The scale is awesome, and the sight surpasses anything the name Samarkand might conjure up in the imagination.

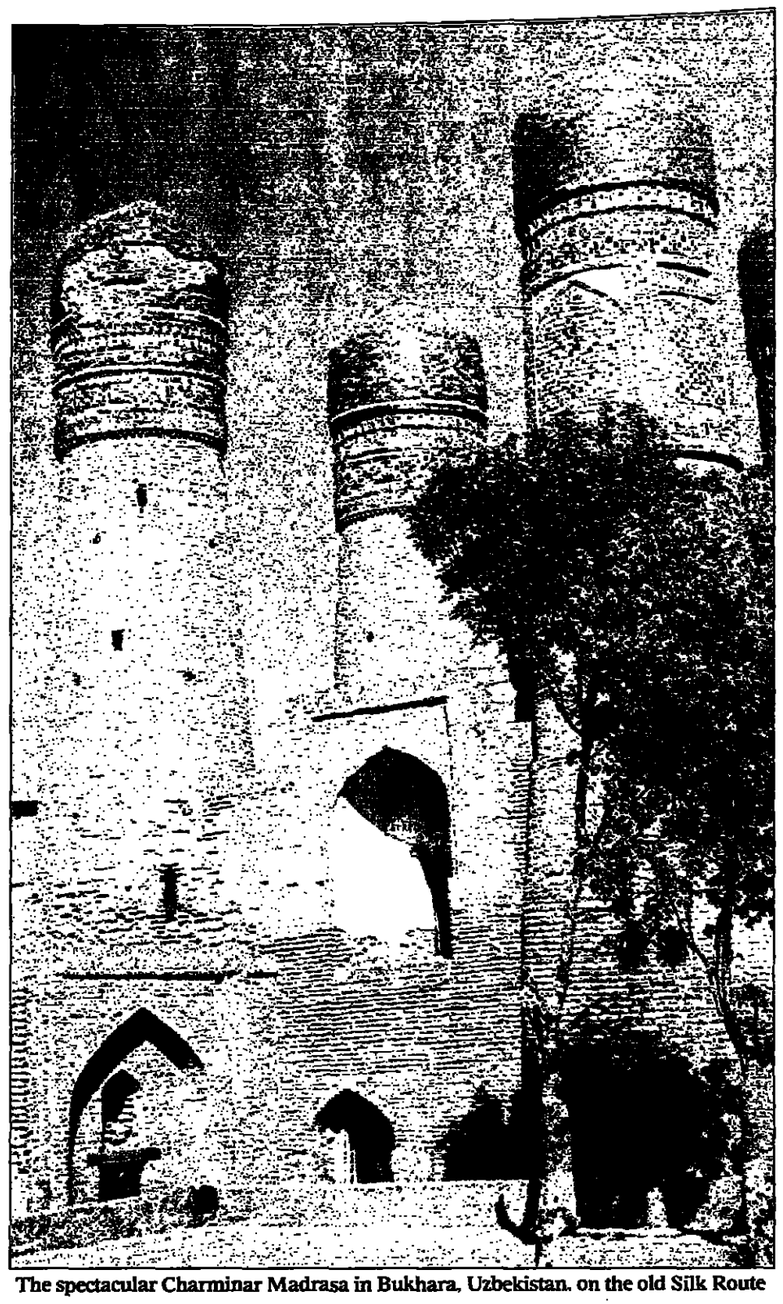
Beyond Samarkand is Bukhara, on a smaller scale but where mosques and madrases, mausoleums and bazaars, the citadel and street scenes all vie for attention. The town has an unhappier memory for the British, though, as this is the region of the "Great Game", the buffer zone between the Russians in the north and the British in India to the south, both seeking to expand their empires into Central Asia. It was to Bukhara in 1939 that a Lieutenant-Colonel Stoddart came, seeking to strike an alliance with the Emir. Stoddart ignored the local advice that he must dismount as a gesture of respect before approaching the Emir's fortress, and as a result of this foolishness or arrogance he was thrown into the Bug Pit of the Zindan, Bukhara's prison.

After six months in the lightless company of scorpions and cockroaches, rats and lice, Stoddart was pardoned when he agreed to convert to Islam. He had the freedom of the city, but not the freedom to leave. Two years later a Captain Conolly arrived to rescue him, but both men were then thrown into the Bug Pit and later executed when Conolly refused to convert to Islam. To stare down into that same Bug Pit today is a chilling, choking experience.

We then drove through the desert to Khiva, near the border with Turkmenistan. Khiva is a self-contained miracle, a medieval-looking town of brown mud houses and slender minarets, where 5,000 people live inside the intact city walls, through whose gateways you pass into what seems another age. This is what the Silk Route cities looked like, and after visiting the bazaar, buying spices and shaking many hands, five of us climbed steps up to a platform high above the Kunya Ark, the old citadel of the khans of Khiva, where we looked down into the courtyard of the harem, and across the brown-cubed roofs whose building-block jumble was broken only by the graceful curves of blue domes and the jutting towers of minarets. The oriental wail of Uzbek music vibrated up to us and we warmed ourselves in the hot sun for 30 minutes.

If not quite the actual end of the trip, it was the emotional climax. We went for a final silent walk round the platform, swallowing our feelings. When we eventually wrenched ourselves away from Khiva to the coach to Tashkent and then to London, it was like tearing a delicate piece of silk down the middle.

MIKE GERRARD


The spectacular Charminar Madrasa in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, on the old Silk Route

Fact File

☐ The author travelled as a guest of Intourist Travel (0171-538 5965/8600), whose trips to Uzbekistan run monthly to November 1995. Seven-day trips, which exclude Khiva, cost from £575; 11-day trips including Khiva start from £785; and 14-day trips which include an extension to northern India, start from £895.

☐ Travellers should take small denomination dollar bills, as travellers' cheques and sterling cannot be exchanged, though the situation is slowly improving so check before travelling. Take sweets, pens and picture postcards as presents to give to children you meet on the trip. Carry a water bottle for the coach journeys: tap water is not safe to drink but bottled water is readily available. Take Diocalm and other medications, mosquito repellent, sun block, a bath plug, toilet paper and plenty of camera film.

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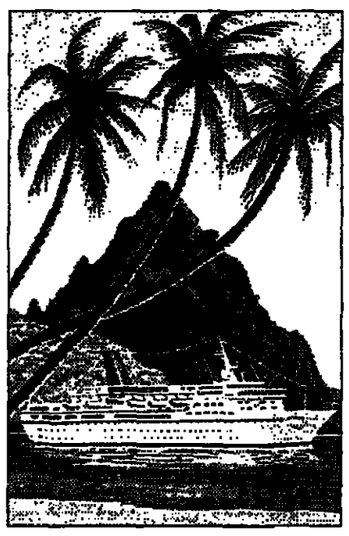
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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 27

YESTERFANG

(c) Something that was taken at some time in the past. For example, your days off owing, your beloved's maidenhead, all the good seats in the dress circle, and the last bottle of proper champagne.

INTERBASTATION

(c) Conveying the sound of an unseemly form of multiple sexual congress, this is a useful word for disturbing maiden aunts. Especially since its actual meaning is "quilting".

BUNKUM

(b) Claptrap. Both words have acquired the modern meaning of nonsense. The original and specific sense of *bunkum* is a flashy but insincere political speech made for the purpose of impressing the voters. That is, any political speech ever made. The original spelling was *Buncombe*, and the original *bunkum* was spoken by Felix Walker, a backwoodsman from Buncombe, North Carolina, who insisted on dragging out the debate on the Missouri Question in the Sixteenth Congress, on the grounds that the people of Buncombe expected a speech from him.

THELYPHTHORIC

(b) Something that corrupts and seduces women, from the Greek *thelis* a female creature + *phthorein* to destroy. It is difficult to imagine what could be so described.

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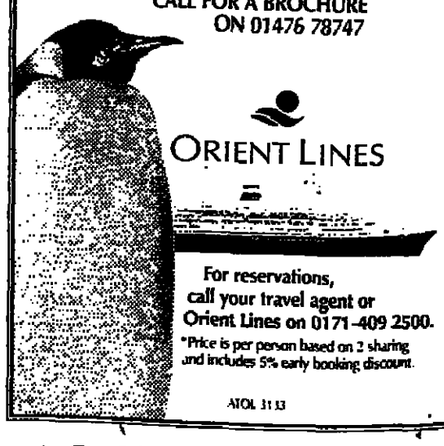
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ATOL 3133

CAMPING: **John O'Leary** heads for the Italian coast and finds that his children are in their element

Pegged down near Pisa





HARRY KERR

Left: caravans cost more to hire than tents but they do come with creature comforts and their own shower and lavatory. St Tropez (above) is within easy reach of campsites at the ancient town of Fréjus

The last thing you need when you are getting away from it all on the coast of Tuscany is a neighbour who can imitate a mobile phone. The nagging suspicion that your boss is about to make an offer that cannot be refused is enough to make anyone choke on their pasta.

But unpredictability is something you have to take for granted on a camping holiday, even in the comparative luxury offered by the fixed-site operators that lure tens of thousands of Britons abroad each year. So much depends on the quality of the site and the pitch you are allocated.

The next tent is not far away, and sound travels a long way through canvas — as the parrot amply demonstrated. Our feathered friend, who soon became one of the attractions of the campsite, was at Cecina, south of Livorno, and near one of Italy's less inspiring stretches of coastline.

With three pre-teenage children, the surrounding scenery hardly matters, however. Like most of the facilities used by Sunsites and rival companies, Camping Montescudaio has so much to offer that it is difficult to persuade the younger members of the family to go anywhere. Even if, like my children, they don't go in for the multitude of organised activities, it is no easy matter to drag them away from the swimming pool, pizzaria/disco, tennis court, ice-cream bar, games area, jogging trail and the rest.



View of Sienna from a window

In fact, Cecina is handily placed for exploring the much more attractive Tuscan countryside inland. Pisa is less than an hour away by car, Sienna is an easy day trip and Florence not much farther away.

The distance from Britain keeps the number of Anglo-Saxon visitors down. Many of Sunsites' other clients were Dutch, and most of the conventional campers were Italian, many apparently semi-permanent residents.

Most of those who had made the trip from the Channel ports had, like us, used Motorail. Though scandalously expensive for the indifferent level of service provided (an hour's queueing for breakfast and two hours late on arrival), the train still has the edge on a 900-mile drive with three children.

The growing number of firms in this field use many of the same sites and have much the same equipment. Having tried three, there are far more similarities than differences. The tents are spacious enough for five (although pretty cosy with six) as long as the weather is good. With fridge, two-ring cooker and reasonably comfortable beds, they are as well equipped as the average holiday apartment, and most people spend virtually all of their time outside.

For real comfort, however, it is worth paying extra for a mobile home. At the height of summer, this means up to £300 more per party, but for that you get more living and sleeping space, creature comforts such as a fan and a gas fire and — most important of all — your own shower and lavatory. We split our holiday, as you can at no extra cost, between Cecina and Fréjus, on the French Riviera. On both sites, the lavatory blocks were immaculately clean and the showers always had hot water. But there can be queues at peak times for showers and wash basins, and there is no substitute for your own. The mobile homes take eight although, like the tents, they are more comfortable below their notional capacity. The brochure insists that converting the dining table into a double bed is simplicity itself but even a party of six requires two people to sleep in the living area, and that can be disruptive enough if children are involved.

Moving between sites is a matter of taste. Obviously, you see more and you will not have to spend all your holiday on a site that has proved a disappointment. But, no matter how efficient you are at packing and unpacking the car, most moves take a day out of your holiday, and you can be left feeling you did not do a place justice.

We felt like that about Fréjus, an ancient and attractive town that is well placed for exploring both inland Provence and — if you can stand the traffic — the famous coastal spots. The spectacular Gorges du Verdon make a day trip not to be missed, and St Tropez, Nice, Cannes and Monte Carlo are all within easy reach.

With three adults in our party (children under 14 go free) the basic cost of a two-week holiday at the beginning of August was less than £1,000, although Motorail added practically £900 to that total. The real bargains are to be had at the end of August, when the basic cost is halved. Even at the height of summer, however, Sunsites and their rivals provide value for money for families with children. The firm's 1995 brochure offers more than 60 sites in five countries. Some of the most popular Mediterranean sites are now full for the peak weeks of the summer, but there are places left throughout the season in most other areas. There are also special offers in May, June and early July, with a number of sites available for around £300 per family in a tent and £500 in a mobile home, both for a fortnight.

● *The author and his family were the guests of Sunsites, Canute Court, Toft Road, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 ONL (01565 625555).*

● *A comparable 12-night holiday at the beginning of August will cost just over £1,000 in a tent, or £1,500 in a mobile home, using the shortest ferry crossings.*

A mobile home for all the family

Happy campers

CAMPING FOR me last summer was a well-equipped mobile home which had the basics of civilised living for a middle-aged man, his wife, her sister and their mother.

Our first view of La Sirène campsite at Argelès, south of Perpignan, was the unattractive high fence disguised by lush foliage. But it suggested why many parents choose camping: while they relax, their children can run and play freely.

The facilities at La Sirène are adequate: essentials included two bedrooms — one a good-sized double — a large lounge and kitchen, a flush lavatory and a shower. There are also swimming pools, tennis courts, crazy-golf, a BMX circuit, archery and organised games.

In the evening, the on-site restaurant offers reasonably priced food. Being slightly too old to boogie to the over-loud music from the evening disco, we made our supper from freshly baked baguettes, apricots, peaches, fist-sized tomatoes and giant spring onions.

The great advantage of this kind of holiday is cost — it gets you to excellent holiday areas where hotel prices are prohibitive.

TIM JONES

● *The author was a guest of Keycamp Holidays (0181-395 4000). May holidays are still available, from £249 (two adults and two children) in addition to peak-season August holidays, starting at £686 for two adults and up to four children. All prices are for a 12-night mobile-home holiday and are inclusive of return ferry crossing.*

TRAVEL TIPS

☐ For departures before May 20, Eurocamp (01565 626262) is offering a two-week holiday at Gassin, near St Tropez, for £218 for a family of two adults and up to four children.

☐ Eurodrive (0181-342 8979) offers up to 40 per cent off midweek travel with Stena Sealink.

☐ French Country Camping (01923 261311) offers separate "adventure tents" sleeping two children (with air beds, compass, torch, and a campsite treasure map) for an extra £3.25 a night. A family of six will pay from £230 in May to £819 during peak season, including ferry crossing.

☐ Canvas Holidays (0500 414444), which has the Hoopi Club for children aged from four to 13, has introduced summer deals offering savings of up to £298 at 100 campsites in seven European countries. For departures on May 13, a family of six get 14 nights for £149.

● *For more holiday travel tips read Travel News in The Times every Thursday.*



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A silence that's out of the blue

HORIZON



The stunning Three Sisters Rock at Katoomba in the Blue Mountains is only 90 minutes' drive away from Sydney

I have a problem with Sydney, a problem that is probably shared by many: once there, I have no desire to wander. This is a shame because, within striking distance, there are attractions that would be irresistible if sited elsewhere.

To the north there are the Hunter Valley wineries, to the south the rustic Southern Highlands. For those who can break the spell of the city, however, the best option is to head west.

Even allowing for the Australian speed limits and the vigilance of the state constabulary, 90 minutes behind the wheel will take you from Harbour Bridge in downtown Sydney into the heart of the Blue Mountains, 3,000ft above the city. Moreover, it will take you into a different, more fragrant world, one to which the most slavishly gushing brochures can do no justice.

For a start, the mountains really do appear to be blue, holding the fascination as the silence and solitude spreads its cloak. You will not avoid the occasional coachload of tourists, Nikons at the ready, but such is the breadth and scope of an area conveniently ringed by good roads that they are easily shaken off.

Do not, however, neglect the tourist haunts. Katoomba, the main mountainside town, has a forgettably shabby centre but the scenic railway, which drops 800ft within 1,500ft, is unmissable. Leura is a captivating village, and at Govett's Leap, 15 minutes further down the highway, the stunning views are complemented by signposted cliff walks of anything between ten minutes and ten hours.

Sixty years ago, the Blue Mountains were to Sydney what Simla was to Calcutta. "Come up and cool down" remains the summertime plea of the tourist board, and yet Sydney's population doggedly prefers the beach. It is in the winter, when log fires are lit in all the guest houses and the area adopts a very un-Australian magic, that the locals choose to visit.

Among the favourite haunts of visitors is Cleopatra, a Victorian house discovered a decade ago by the film-set designer Trish Mullene and the French chef Dany Chouet. While out walking on a Sunday afternoon, they saw a rundown property with a hopelessly overgrown garden. Tipped off that it was for sale, they made the purchase and then transformed it into what, today, is one of Australia's hidden treasures.

Unpretentious and unannounced by signposts, Cleopatra has five beguiling guest rooms — each bedecked with roses and lace but deliberately free of telephones — and a restaurant that brings gourmets from around the country. Most of all, it has all the atmosphere of escapism and romance.

Breakfast on the verandah on a clear, fresh morning, amid the sights and scents of an enchanting garden, with the only noise coming from the vividly coloured parakeets, convinced me I had no wish to return to Sydney. And that was quite some achievement.

ALAN LEE

● *Cleopatra country guest house and restaurant, Blackheath, Blue Mountains, New South Wales (0061 47 878456). Prices from £76 to £115 per person per night, including dinner and breakfast. Return flights to Sydney from £742, flying with Qantas or BA, through Trailfinders (0171-938 3366), which can arrange car hire in Sydney from £33 per day with Avis.*

Whale of a time for castaways

From the moon, the American Apollo astronauts reported that the Great Barrier Reef looked like a white scar on the face of the Pacific Ocean.

The reef runs for more than 2,000km from north of Brisbane towards New Guinea. It has 2,600 individual reefs and 300 coral islands, and at least one, Hayman Island, merits every superlative. If you are in search of paradise, here is a contender.

Hayman is a tiny castaway island of just 400 hectares, with a horseshoe-shaped hill in the centre rising to 250m, rocky outcrops, and a vegetation of mainly pine forest and grass trees.

The island is uninhabited apart from the Hayman Island Resort, where the vine-covered buildings extend over the entire southern coast. Hayman is the most northerly of 74 islands in Whitsunday Passage, which was discovered by Captain Cook on its namesake day in 1770 and is regarded as the finest sailing ground in Australia. It is also one of the closest to the reef itself. The nearest airport is at Hamilton Island, two hours by air from Cairns or Sydney. Then there is an hour-long ride on a launch.



Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef

The tastefully designed Hayman Island holiday resort has wall-to-wall contemporary Australian works of art, marble floors, and giant swimming pools that are tucked behind a coral strand of almost a dream-like quality. There are more than 200 terraced rooms, 11 penthouses and a saltwater lagoon winds through lush gardens set with statues, fountains and Grecian urns. The marina is filled with the resort's own yachts, dinghies and diving launches.

There are half a dozen unspoilt beaches, including the main resort beach, a coconut-trimmed crescent of pastel sand. When I pointed out five stingrays lurking in the shallows, the beach attendant just smiled: "Don't worry about them, and they won't worry about you."

Beyond the main beach is an 800m-wide coral reef, which is covered by water at high tide. Hayman is part of a marine park so the delicate pale pink and blue coral is a protected area. Other sheltered snorkelling beaches on the island are Blue Pearl Bays I and II. Arkhurst Island, just a few minutes off the southwest coast of Hayman, also has good snorkelling.

One evening I went whale watching, a daily event during July and August when humpbacks migrate along the reef to their breeding grounds. An hour out to sea we spied six of them swimming beside — and under — our boat.

It is also worth joining a day's scuba diving trip to Bait Reef to see baby sharks, stunning coral and magnificent shells. Those who have never dived before must take an introductory course at the hotel before trying the real thing, but to snorkel you need no previous experience.

The resort's six restaurants provide a wide range of food, but the prices are high because visitors are virtually captive on this one-resort island. There is ample compensation in the sophisticated yet laid-back atmosphere, and a view to the sea through the palm trees from the breakfast table that is worth dying for.

FELICE EYSTON

Fact File

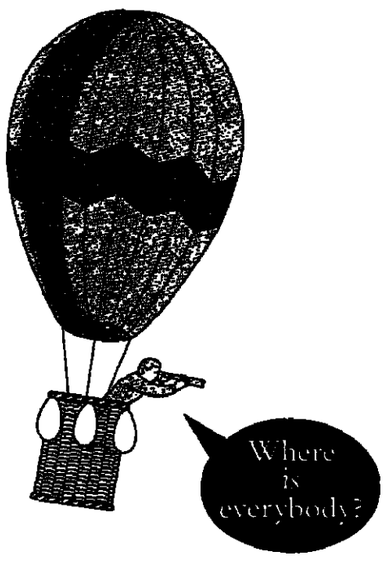
☐ Felice Eyston was a guest of the Australian Tourism Commission (01793 707096), Queensland Tourist & Travel Corporation (0181-780 2227) and Qantas Airways (01345 747767).

☐ Qantas has return flights from Heathrow to Sydney from £742, and flights from Sydney to Cairns from £120. Ansett Australia (0171-434 4071) has flights from Cairns to Hamilton Island and Hamilton Island to Sydney from £80 each.

☐ The Observatory in Sydney, part of the Orient-Express Hotels group (0171-620 0003), costs from £170 per night; the Kewarra Beach Resort, Cairns (0061 70 576 666), costs from £78 per night; the Sheraton Mirage Resort, Port Douglas (0061 70 99 5888), costs from £180 per night.

☐ Quicksilver Outer Barrier Reef Tours (0061 70 995 455) cost from £50 per day. Extra £12 for guided snorkel tour.

☐ Stays at Hayman Island, bookable through The Leading Hotels of the World (0800 181 123), cost from £180 per night, inclusive of breakfast, all non-motorised watersports and transfers.



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All fares listed are return from London, subject to availability and differing travel periods and must be booked by 24th May 1995. Passenger taxes apply. For details and conditions of these and many other World Offers see ITV Teletext page 380, your travel agent, British Airways Travel Shop, or call us on:

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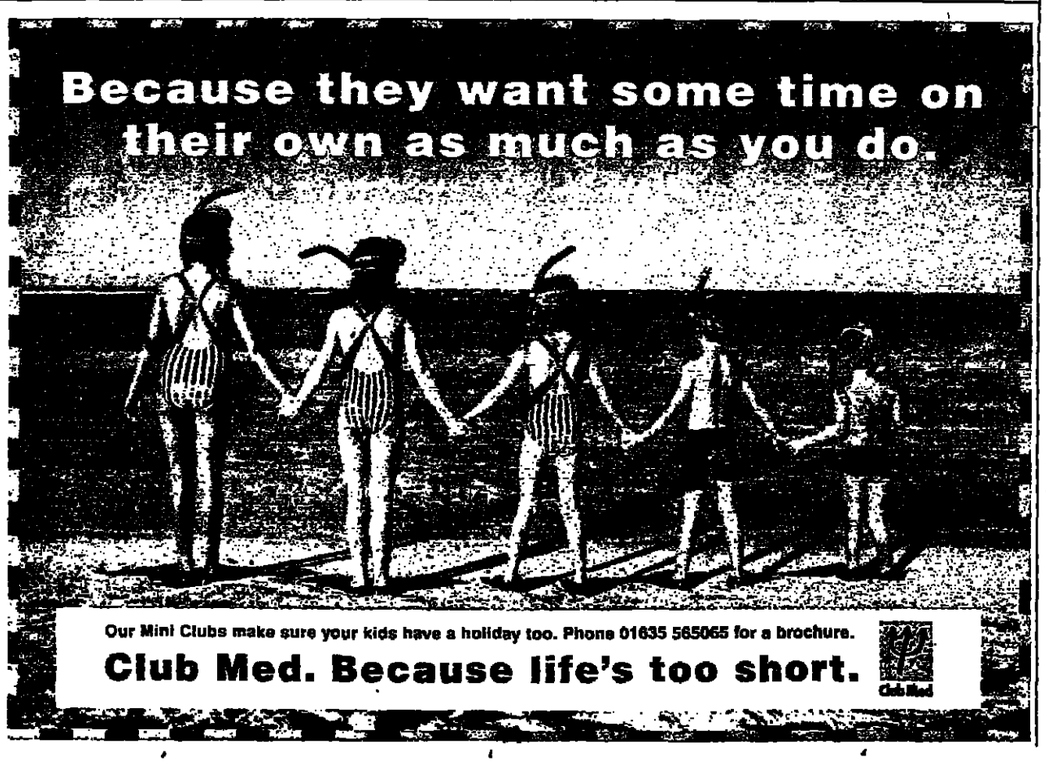
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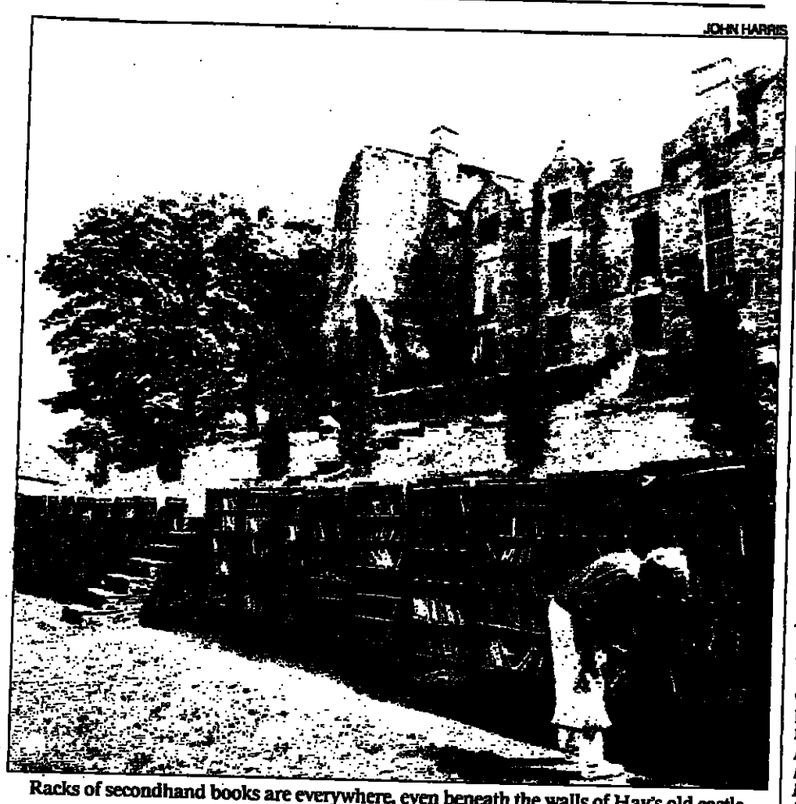
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هكذا من الأصل

HAY-ON-WYE: The book festival is a good excuse to go exploring

Beyond the mountain of books



JOHN HARRIS

Racks of secondhand books are everywhere, even beneath the walls of Hay's old castle

Literary references will start early for the literati *en route* to Hay-on-Wye for the festival at the end of this month. Those taking the pretty routes northwest from Chepstow will get views of Tintern Abbey and memories of Wordsworth's poetry; those travelling southwest from Hereford will pass Clyro and the home of the Rev Francis Kilvert, whose diaries afford such a vivid account of Victorian rural life.

These itineraries might find favour with Richard Booth, who sparked the revival in fortunes of the ancient market town when he opened his first bookshop there in 1961. But Mr Booth's interest is mainly in books, not in the festival, which he sees as the self-aggrandisement of contemporary writers enjoying a ten-day junket on the banks of the Wye. He has transformed Hay into the Town of Books, and brought about two million volumes there via his shops.

At the last count, there were about 30 bookshops in this town of 1,300 inhabitants. There is a medieval castle stuffed with volumes, a cinema, a fire station, barns and even a slaughterhouse converted for the sale of old books. It is something of a relief for the visitor to come upon a building that is still being used for its original purpose. Books spill out into alleys and on to lawns beneath the castle walls. Here are Mr Booth's "honesty" bookshops, where browsers are trusted to put cash for their purchases into a nearby wall safe. Hardbacks cost 50p, paperbacks 30p.

Festival visitors playing hooky from the odd lecture or debate will discover plenty to see and do. Hay is located in no-man's land: on the border of England and Wales, straddling King Offa's defensive dyke, but at the convergence of the old districts of Brecknock, Radnorshire and Herefordshire. The accents heard on the streets might be termed English agricultural rather than Welsh.

There is evidence of ancient conflicts all around, in the shape of Roman and Norman fortifications, and it was at Cilmeri, 15 miles away, that Llywelyn II, the last native Prince of Wales, was killed.

Hay's Englishness is best characterised in the neatness of the surrounding lowlands, where every house looks immaculate, the hedges are trimmed, and the rolling pastures appear to be manicured by innumerable sheep.

Opposite the house in Clyro where Kilvert recorded the daily happenings of rural life in the 1870s is the Baskerville Arms, which takes its name from the family who lived at Clyro Court. It is said that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle based *The Hound of the Baskervilles* on the family, but changed its setting to protect their privacy.

For Celtic grandeur, seek out the Black Mountains to the south. Black they are not. By turns purple, green, blue and smoky grey in receding perspective, maybe, but not black.

A single-track road takes you over the Gospel Pass to Capel-y-Ffin, a hamlet comprising a telephone kiosk, two homesteads, two whitewashed churches and a ruined Benedictine monastery. The churches are separated by dogma and a bubbling brook. St Mary's, surrounded by ancient yews, has a slatted wooden belfry resembling a beehive. In the pulpit, a large Bible is appropriately left open at Psalm 124: "I lift up my eyes to the hills. . . "

For less spiritual sustenance there is the Three Cocks Hotel, a former staging post, about five miles southwest of Hay, which sells Belgian beers and specialises in Belgian cuisine — "Much the same as French, really, but more generous portions," says Marie-Jeanne Winstone, the Belgian wife of the English proprietor.

I was grateful to her for my delicious lamb with courgettes, but more so for drawing my attention to the remote church of St Issui at Partishow. The 15th-century gem is built near the site of a well, which became a place of pilgrimage after a foreign visitor was said to have been cured of leprosy by drinking its water. It is also said that Geraldus Cambrensis preached the Third Crusade here. Judging by the remoteness of the valley, he could not have found many takers.

On the west wall, an unusual depiction of a skeleton with spade, scythe and hour glass must have been an early visual aid to remind an illiterate congregation of their mortality and the passing of time. If they take the hint and hurry, today's literate pilgrims taking time out from the Hay festival can be back on site in time to catch the gospel according to Barry Norman, Jeremy Paxman or Mavis Nicholson.

ALAN ROAD

- *The author was a guest of the Wales Tourist Board.*
- *Hay Festival, May 26-June 4 (information, 01497 821217). Hay Tourist Information Office, Oxford Road, Hay (01497 820144).*

Family holiday events

CUMBRIA

☐ **Friends of Thomas the Tank Engine Weekend:** Steam train rides include a gift for children.
South Tynedale Railway, Railway Station, Alston (01434 381696). Today-Mon, 11am-5pm. Not suitable for disabled. £2, child £1.

☐ **Children's Treasure Hunt:** Take a picnic and search for treasure on the shores of Lake Windermere. Classes for different age groups.
Fell Foot Country Park, Newby Bridge (015394 35102). Mon 11am-5pm. Parking £2.50.

DEVON

☐ **Animal Magic Day:** Magic show, clowns, fun zoo trail and competitions with prizes.
Paignton Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Totnes Road, Paignton (01803 557479). Sun, 10am-4pm. £5.95, children £3.50, families £16.90.

KENT

☐ **Treasure Hunt:** Follow the clues around the farm park — prizes to be won. Lots of baby farm animals to see.
Rare Farm Animals of Hollanden, Great Hollanden Farm, Mill Lane, Hildenborough (01732 832276). Tomorrow and Mon, 10.30am-5pm. £3.95, children £2.60.

LONDON

☐ **Canalway Cavalcade:** Waterways festival with boats pageant entertainments, theatre and a teddy bears' picnic.
Little Venice, adjacent to Blomfield Road, W9 (0181-533 5128). Today-Mon, 10am-6pm. Free.

☐ **Muppets, Monsters and Magic:** An exhibition starring Kermit the Frog, Fozzie Bear and Miss Piggy. Go behind the scenes and see how the characters are brought to life.
Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1 (0171-401 2636). Open daily until Sept 3, 10am-6pm. £5.50, child £4, families £16.

MANCHESTER

☐ **Science Weekend:** Working exhibits and demonstrations; steam train rides.
Museum of Science and Industry, Liverpool Road, Castlefield (0161-832 2244). Open daily, 10am-5pm. £4, children £2.

MIDDLESEX

☐ **May Day at the Manor:** Live events all day with games, music and dance, plus a VE-Day exhibition.
Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre, Headstone Manor, Pinner View, Harrow (0181-861 2626). Mon, 10.30am-5pm. 50p, children 30p.



Muppets at the South Bank

OXFORDSHIRE

☐ **Indian Rendezvous:** An American Indian living history camp with hobbyist Indians and backwoodsmen.
Sulgrave Manor, Sulgrave, Banbury (01295 760205). Today-Mon, 10.30am-5pm. £3.80, children £1.90, families £11.

YORKSHIRE

☐ ***Lord of the Rings* Children's Festival:** Face painting, mask making, children's shows and drama.
Elsham Hall Country and Wildlife Park, Elsham, Brigg (01652 688698). Tomorrow-Mon, 11am-5pm. £3.95, children £2.50.

☐ **Victorian Day:** Displays by cavalry horses and landau rides. Follow the Victorian servants' trail, and enjoy fairground attractions.
Normanby Hall Country Park, Normanby, Scunthorpe (01724 720588). Mon, 1-4.30pm. Parking £2.30.

SCOTLAND

☐ **Glasgow-Berlin Children's Circus:** Performances by 50 Glasgow children and the professional artists who trained them.
Tramway, 25 Albert Drive, Glasgow (0141-227 5511). Tomorrow-Mon, 2.30pm. £10, children £7.

☐ **Art Machine 95:** Interactive arts exhibition, with film, new technology, sculpture, drama, music, stories.
McLellan Galleries, 270 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (0141-331 1854). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm. £1.50, children 50p.

WALES

☐ **Waterworld:** Environmental games, discovering what is below the surface of a pond.
Ynys-hir RSPB Reserve, Eglwys-fach, Machynlleth, Powys (01654 781265). Tomorrow and next Sun, 2-4pm. £1.50, children 50p. (Not suitable for disabled.)

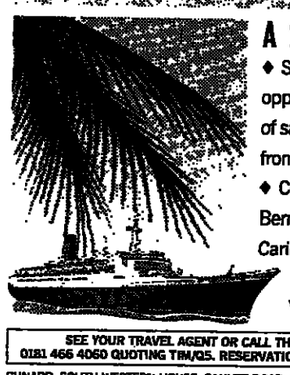
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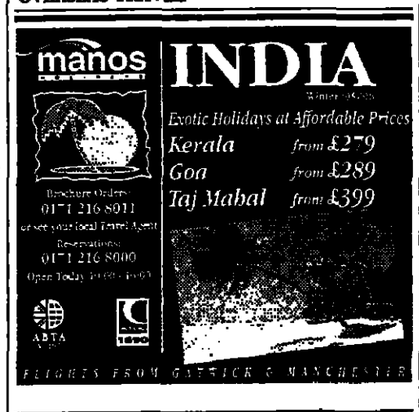
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ACROSS

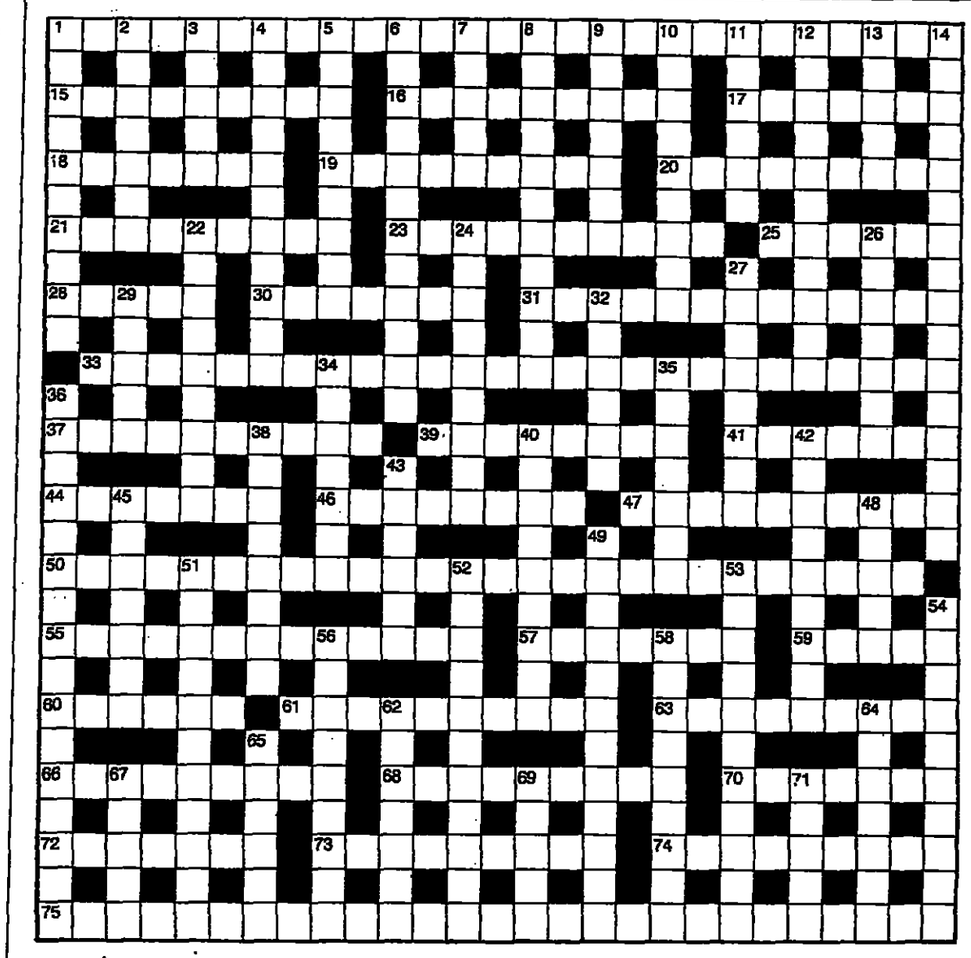
1 Quality controllers initially placed in job situation (7,9,11)
15 Faction left on island split into parts (9)
16 County has flags to rent (9)
17 Challenging Scotsman in skilful case (7)
18 Train from East expected, carrying Persian, say (7)
19 Place for storing eg albatross? (5-4)
20 Where liquid assets are kept within banks (9)
21 Part of our capital providing the drink, on a spree (9)
23 Corrupt in a relatively profitable way (10)
25 Part of bluff is called about government finance (6)
28 Pass round beer, mostly, in this pub (5)
30 Contents of book, including the lines for play (7)
31 Failure to appear's no end of aggravation to audience (3-10)
33 Advice to stop, rather than try to reverse (10,2,6,4,4)
37 Putting up with noisy bird in fancy surroundings (10)
39 Identify precise location of tiny object (8)
41 Least intelligent learner gains nothing in second quarter (7)
44 Cryptic compiler always accepts new dictionary (7)
46 One who adjusts score by a couple of runs — outrage (8)
47 Where Americans opposed Mexican investment (3,7)
50 Showing the ugliness of a central feature, very difficult to overlook (2,5,2,3,4,2,4,4)
55 Secret events in golf and football (4-3-6)
57 Fought using straight left, under guidance (7)
59 Old fellow taking to heart end of the music-hall (5)
60 You could get coach here, to train us in school (6)
61 Police then reorganized along certain lines (10)
63 A lot of horses finish together — there may be a neck in it (6,3)
66 Runner's opponent cut in front of the chap (9)
68 Flimsy material used in making collection of suits (9)
70 Innovative design incorporating new finishes (7)
72 Regards mine's output as a blot on the landscape (7)
73 Reviving law, take on king after leaders are banished (9)
74 Fierce characters look carefully at gemstone (6,3)
75 Ruskin's illuminating views on Gothic style (3,5,5,2,12)

DOWN

1 Hamper social gathering for sport (10)
2 Form hard cover with metal not starring to corrode (7)
3 Raised capital to get informal trade within island (5)
4 Watches a short time on satellite in full view (7,4)
5 Prematurely disclose intention in newspaper (9)
6 Island for Nana, for example (12)
7 A lake remained calm (5)
8 Halt musical entertainment — change in tune (11)
9 What you'll find in Arctic, in essence? (7)
10 Asparagus in perfect condition provides flavouring (9)
11 Apply medical treatment in one dose I mixed (6)
12 Allowed in since not ordered outside (11)
13 State visible from Florida hotel (5)
14 Fitness competition that might make you insecure? Not at all! (7,9)
22 Fired in two directions to survive retreat when overthrown (9)
24 Put on airs, perhaps, like a foreign writer (9)
26 Conservative guarantee gets severe criticism (7)
27 Scene of miraculous cure in chapel (8)
29 Commander holds our artillery up with 1,000 cannon (5)
32 A fool can upset a humorist (6)
34 Lines on map showing shoals round island? Just the reverse (7)
35 Like net from stern of trawler, it's pulled up in New Year (7)
36 Am I the dunce, never varying from this? (16)
38 Keen to perform such a work (8)
40 Drove forcefully towards target — continued using iron (7,2)
42 Rusticated ie removed from Oxford or Cambridge, say? (3,2,4)
43 Like a rogue performing for the magistrate (6)
45 Ceilings with curved shape, raised and also moulded (7)
48 Start of holiday in resort in particularly suitable position (5)
49 He's ready for conversion (5-7)
51 Mineral overweight female fighter needed (6-5)
52 They occupy places at the tops of the charts (11)
53 Like this as result of silly diet and hunger without point? (11)
54 University degrees in disarray, attacked on all sides (5,5)
56 Everybody, moreover, absorbed in result of even match (3,3,3)
58 Continue to abandon final defensive position (4,5)
62 Former partner's right to speak vehemently (7)
64 A nut one adjusted in rear part of vehicle (7)
65 Raised before political leader a current measure (6)
67 West Indians outside railway junction (5)
69 Digest fine cheese, initially (5)
71 Upset staff in charge of some Greeks (5)

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Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday, May 22, 1995. Entries should be sent to May Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, May 27, 1995.



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Times Two May Bank Holiday Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The answers will be published on Monday

ACROSS

1 Function of your home (*Le Corbusier*) (1,5,2,1,7,3,6,2)
15 Waterfalls; eye problems (9)
16 Where visitor sleeps (5-4)
17 Throat ornament (7)
18 Astound; go unsteadily (7)
19 Not attempted (9)
20 Relaxing; sacking (7,2)
21 Thorough (3,3,3)
23 Dictation taker (10)
24 Reject responsibility (for) (6)
28 Sir Edward —, composer (5)
30 Lifeline given by plane (7)
31 Convert (street) from car use (13)
33 Definition of generosity (*Loyola*) (2,4,3,3,2,5,3,4)
37 Earth's envelope (10)
39 Ride to check car (4,4)
41 Less dense (7)
44 Betrayal of country (7)
46 One cursed, detested (8)
47 Slanted information (10)
50 Misfortune can be turned to good (*A YLI*) (5,3,3,4,2,9)
55 Insulating (elec.) (3-10)
57 Logical refutations (7)
59 Polish lancer (5)
60 Geom. figures; what baby weaned on to (6)
61 Creative; of the bringer of fire (10)
63 One practising (9)
66 Critically-revised text (9)
68 Organ pipes imitating oboes etc (4-5)
70 Conscripting; imposing (7)
72 Saint, Latin Doctor, and hymnodist (7)
73 (Unfavourable) evaluation (9)
74 Placement in water (9)
75 Being shy of showing talents (6,4,5,5,1,6)

DOWN

1 Used (to) (10)
2 Pariah (7)
3 Gesture of indifference (5)
4 Include in whole (11)
5 Assailant (9)
6 Conglomerations (12)
7 Wins ball in scrum (5)
8 Hawkeye (*F. Cooper*) (5,6)
9 English victory over Scots, 1513 . . . (7)
10 . . . over French, 1706 (9)
11 Instinctive, natural (6)
12 Imply (one's) guilt (11)
13 Soviet camp system (5)
14 Hard to fool (3,4,9)
22 Self-regarding youth (9)
24 (Plant) making its own food (9)
26 Portentous (7)
27 Makes fair copy from (notes) (6,2)
29 Newly-wed; train (5)
32 Animal herder (6)
34 Point of compass; anag. of 44 (3-4)
35 Of a given disposition (7)
36 Talks in vain (6,4,6)
38 Centuries (8)
40 Inlay steel with gold; one from Syrian capital (9)
42 A bitter bark (9)
43 Good Queen Bess successor (5,1)
45 Everlasting (7)
48 S African province (5)
49 Anthony Powell's first novel (9,3)
51 Pressed underfoot (7,4)
52 Doing tourist rounds (11)
53 Songs celebrating marriage (11)
54 Not creative; thought of before (10)
56 Date-ordered narrative (9)
58 Girl; nice shirt (anag.) (9)
62 Warlike; Roman poet (7)
64 (Unpleasantly) piglike (7)
65 *Second Mrs Tanqueray* dramatist (6)
67 Raised to third power (5)
69 *Gulliver* author; quick (5)
71 Fine art expertise (5)

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ACROSS: 1 Third Man 7 Drove 8 Misbehave 9 Eat 10 Slip 11 Keeper 13 Cherry 14 Picker 17 Advent 18 Long 20 Run 22 Stonewall 23 Point 24 Fair play

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LADIES

AARDVARK - That's guaranteed me 1st place in column! Look no further. I'm a mid 30s 6'9" attractive, stylish female with successful career & G.S.O.H. You're 30-40s, n/s, good looking, successful male who likes challenge of independent, assertive woman & wouldn't normally reply to a box not Write with photo. Box No 6024.

AIMING to convert from single to dual system to increase interest rate. Excellent technical database continually upgraded. Required package for successful and talented operator Saged 40-55. Apply: Box No 6077.

ALONE tonight? Are you a professional, caring man, 50-60+ who dreams of a lovely blue-eyed, blonde, elegant, ethereal lady to share cultural sight-seeing in European cities, warm nights in exotic locations and simple, treasured occasions tomorrow and forever. Let's paint the town red! Please Reply to Box No 6027.

AMERICAN Div. W Fem. prof gentle woman, 45, longs to find unashamed romantic who is musical, theatrical and passionate yet capable of organization. I am looking for a well educated hopeless academic with a silly streak who wouldn't ordinarily read these ads, for real love. Photo please Box No 5810

'AM I asking too much? Honest, kind, caring, slim, loving solvent lady of 60yrs WLTM similar gentleman' London area. Please Reply Box 5901

ANOTHER husband not sought but this tall, spirited, independent, professional woman, 50s, does seek lively conversation, laughter, and shared experiences with warm, sophisticated, intelligent and funny (haha not peculiar) man. Please Reply to Box No 5897.

APHRODITE seeks Greek God. 44+, Bath area. Photo and phone number please. Reply to Box No 6148.

ARE you a tall positive prof. man 55-65 who seeks an attractive, slim, n/s, mature, sensual Scorpio lady partner with a lively personality who is loving and caring? Me - Surrey/Hants. Reply with photo to Box 5879.

ARE you sporty, fun-loving, attractive and intelligent (30s-40s)? If so I am your perfect mate! London based, 33, skiing, good wine and socialising are my priorities - what are yours? Photo please. Box 6099.

ARE you looking for an energetic, fun-loving, 5'2", fair, slim, late 30s soul mate - to share country walks, theatre, good cooking, bridge, holidays? Oxford to Winchester area. Box No 5975.

A STRIKINGLY attractive slim brunette 36 seeks gentleman 45-50 with an international perspective who has a broad view of life. Photo app. Box No 6766

A STRONG individual needed to match my chequered life. I am mid 40s, young outlook, solvent, slim, pretty, caring, romantic and professional, seeking my soul-mate who is emotionally and financially secure, 48-55ish, n/s, GSOH, a gentleman. North West/Cheshire. I will travel if necessary. No females. Photo ensures reply. Box No 6862.

ATTRACTIVE, divorced, n/s, professional lady, wants to date, late 40's, financially independent, WLTM tall, nice looking, financially secure gentleman for fun and friendship. Enjoys all the usual things, but needs someone to share them with. London & surrounding areas. Please Reply with photo to Box No 5771

ATTRACTION is in beholder's eye, sexuality between our ears. Chemistry compassion a sense of absurdity more important than glitzy life-style. Similarity in age useful for mutuality as 21C draws. Are you mid/late 40's 5'8"+ Lon/Surrey? I am blonde med. slim and refuse to be put in a box except for.... Box No 5892

ATTRACTIVE intelligent, professional woman, 40, n/s, London, lover of all types of music, good food, theatre, walks in the country and quiet nights at home. Seeking unattached, interesting man 30-50 to share fun and the good things in life. Please write - recent photo appreciated. Box 6123

ATTRACTIVE Widow 50+, a company Director wishes to meet a gentleman of similar status age 45-55, for companionship non-smoker. Interest. Theatre, dining out, travelling reading & keep fit. Photo/Tel. number much appree. London/Surrey only. Box No 5641

ATTRACTIVE, amusing linguist early 40s, internationally travelled would love to meet tall handsome man of like age /mind to share her joie de vivre for ever. Midlands based but willing to emigrate, especially to France Photo app. Box 6141.

ATTRACTIVE lady, 43, enjoys travel, theatre, town & country, dining out, disco's, gardening. WLTM solvent professional gentleman for friendship & social outings. Please Reply to Box No 5877.

ATTRACTIVE elegant sophisticated long-haired brunette lady, 5'7", early 40's seeking someone special to share the good things in life. London/Surrey /Berks. Reply with photo & phone no.to Box No 5968

ATTRACTIVE, curvy, young at heart 45 yr old based in Berks who enjoys Skiing, travel and the country-side, seeks like minded unattached male with GSOH to enhance her life. Photo please Box No 5991.

ATTRACTIVE lady 32 slim sincere tactile, 2 children seeks man 32-40 vivacious fun loving with GSOH for lasting relationship. Photo appreciated, will return (Herts, London/Home Counties). Reply to Box 5956

ATTRACTIVE vivacious, professional lady, 34, with GSOH, seeks professional gentleman 30-45 to show her there's more to life than work. Photo appreciated. London/Home Counties. Please Reply to Box No 6090

ATTRACTIVE, tall, slim, n/s, educated, South/South West based lady, late 30's with varied interests. Seeks a warm, loving, lasting, special partner. Photo app. Plse Reply Box 5979

ATTRACTIVE continental lady early 50's seeks n/s active professional gentleman to rediscover love and companionship. 5'10"+. 53-63. Kent/S.East London area. Box No 5811

ATTRACTIVE, tall, slim, professional female (42) W.L.T.M similar male 35-50 with G.S.O.H. to help me laugh again. North West England/Scotland. Box No 5966.

ATTRACTIVE lady late 40s would love to meet unattached London gentleman similar age or older for fun and romance. Please Reply to Box No 5938.

ATTRACTIVE Lady Golfer 43 seeks that someone special to replace my divots and fiddle my score card. South Bucks. Please reply to Box No 6022

A VIVACIOUS shapely redhead who enjoys life to the full. Loves travelling, sport, writing and dislikes, and a bit of a boogie. In fact all the finer things in life WLTM a guy, preferably 40's+ who would love to share these things with a real woman Must include lots of laughter and T.L.C. London/Home counties Please send photo to Box No 6012

A WARM Scottish professional lady, 47, living in London; loves skiing, natural history, the arts, seeks a kind hearted, good natured man for "moonlight, music, love and romance". Please Reply to Box No 5998.

BRIGHTON based attractive prof French lady 29, Virgo seeks caring prof gentleman who likes travelling, skiing, country walking and evenings in/out for romance and sincere relationship. Photo ess. Box No 6139

BUCKS/Berks based attractive, slim, cultured, prof. n/s lady seeks graduate fun-loving gentleman 35-45 with GSOH for sincere relationship. Reply with photo if post to Box No 6083.

BUSY Midlands Head, attractive, vivacious seeks a little fun and lots of TLC with 45-58ish man Please Reply to Box No 5778.

BUSY professional lady 32, petite, considerate, honest, reliable and trustworthy. Oriental origin seeks n/s single tall sporty professional gentleman 32-39 with manners and integrity for company and friendship. E. Midlands. Box No 6057

CAROLINE unmarried, no ties, Anglo-Scot, 5'6" slim, looks good, n/s. Pub.Sch Grad. Widely travelled. Likes World Service, conversation, arts, adventure, home WLTM sincere man around 40. Please reply to Box No 6019

CENTRAL Scotland, caring, slim, attractive smart professional, solvent young 45 single similar tall gent to enjoy laughter and happiness Box No 6076

CHAIRMAN of The Board, where are you? Attractive intelligent independent minded fun loving lady WLTM tall 46+ who drinks champagne Are you prepared to take on a new challenge? I reside N.West Yorks, London & Paris. Box No 6142

CHINESE graduate lady, mid 30s, 5'5, slim, attractive, good sense of humour, seeks educated caring gentleman for long term relationship. Please reply to Box No 5929

CLASSY bird missing the good things in life wants rescuing by 50-60 knight in shining armour to share excitement of life, love etc, compatible to a warm feminine equestian. Box 5431.

COMELY lady, youthful 62, widow, intelligent, GSOH, wide ranging cultural interests, comfortable lifestyle in East Anglia - would like to reciprocate the pleasure, love and companionship of a stable, compatible relationship. Box 6107

CONTINENTAL lady 30, feminine, pretty, petite, slim, well travelled cultured (History M.A.) polyglot, seeks well-educated, intelligent, caring man for friendship, London area. Plse Rply to Box 5780

COSMOPOLITAN cultured, lively London lady, 50, seeks gentleman lover of all things classical, to seize the day! Please Reply to Box No 5874.

COUNTRY Gentleman (Surrey) 45, 5'11" unattached but handsome and wealthy seeks soulmate with GSOH, honesty and loyalty who likes country pursuits the arts good food and conversation to settle down with and possibly start a family. Please Reply to Box No 5926

CUDDLE loving black lady 38 with no ties and own business who enjoys cryptic clues seeks a lasting relationship. Someone who has those old fashioned values, a disciplined approach but have time for sport, the music and backgammon. A man I could love, honour and obey. London Box No 5787

DAMSEL approaching distress seeks knight in shining armour (I will supply charger!). Me - slim, blonde, 30's, attractive, country-loving, intelligent. You - similar attributes but hair colour optional. Genuine replies only (no frog princes). Within travelling distance Hants. Please reply to Box No 6121

DAMSEL young 60 rejected, where is the knight of my dreams? loving warm hearted neglected, I've so much to offer it seems. I'd settle for dented armour, imperfections I have a few, I trust he will be a charmer but a frog sporting crown will do! Surrey. Box No 5795

DEFINITELY Different stylish older woman (49) still with beauty, brains and looks, suddenly adrift, seeks physically aware, upmarket, single gentleman, preferably graduate 45-55 London & Beyond. Box 5997

DELICIOUSLY attractive, Jewish woman 45 with zest for life in every way, looking for tall, attractive and very successful man with humour, integrity and intelligence, (London or near). Please Reply Box 5851.

DO you enjoy eating out in pleasant company? 3 prof. women seek 3 like-minded men to enjoy a social evening. Age 45-55. Southern Counties. Box 6041

DUMFRIESSHIRE based lady Surgeon. 36, tall, slim, red headed, vivacious, WLTM handsome, tall professional man 36-48 yrs. Interests include cars, travel, music, writing and dining. A photograph would be much appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6060

EMPTY Raincoat, empty arms? Change-battered and facing Third Age unpartnered? Attractive London woman, youthful 50s, similar experiences, no ties, seeks optimistic man, over 50 but not over the hill, for better tomorrows. Box No 6002

EVERYTHING I have except you: special, successful, solvent, confident gentleman, 29-35 who will travel for that special lady - Me! Please reply to an attractive, slim brunette. Financial Services Professional - Interests: fashion, music, cars, travelling. Age and area immaterial - reply in confidence with recent photo to Box No 5911

FELINE Film Producer(39) with gorgeous garret near Sloane Square seeks amusing unattached gentleman of means, intellect and stamina 35-45 Box No 5999

EXTREMELY attractive elegant and educated American woman based in London. Slim, petite brunette who is warm and fun! Comfortable in city or country (jeans or Chanel). Mid 40s. WLTM worldly businessman or professional who is kind, refined, witty, and a gentleman of integrity. For dinner, theatre, walks, picnics, travel and friendship+. Please write with photo to Box No 6156

FETCHINGLY pretty, 36, single, slim, fit, warm, vivacious, well-educated/travelled. Loves tennis, riding, country/cultural pursuits and the good things in life. Seeks an exceptional man: chivalrous, accomplished, witty with (mostly...) honourable intentions! London area. Please Reply to Box No 6144.

FRENCH speaking gentleman (not necessarily a French man) sought by 49 yr. old Pocket Venus living in Cheshire. She needs to improve her French by conversation over dinner, during theatre intermissions, on Corsica. Photo & full details please to Box No 6150.

GABRIEL no reply from France. Phone Box 4484 please write again Box No 6016 Pls Pls Pls!

HUMOUR imperative. Positive, broad shouldered, Big hearted unpretentious gentleman, taller by above average 36 yr old. Curiousity, originality, vitality, love of life and people a must. Love of coast, logic, controversy, the unexpected, colour and sport a bonus. Friends who are hitched, why not thrust this at that man for me, or vice versa. A good friend who fits the bill and would be reluctant to marry him without a big budget. 30 - 50 yrs. Enlightening replies please to Box No 5767

INTELLIGENT attractive, presentable man, 42-48, sought by stylish, slim, attractive and intelligent woman, accompany her to (sometimes formal) social events. Willing reciprocate. London/Cambridge. Reply with photo please to Box 5941

INTELLIGENT very attractive slim lady, 42, looking for open minded entrepeneur/ business man, sincere, honest, 40s to share life and family. Letters, photos please. London Please Reply to Box No 5933.

I want someone to love. Vivacious attractive n/s feminine slim blonde modern 45. Intelligent, sincere adventurous independent no ties. Enjoys socialising sun sea boats music travel romantic dinners chocolates champagne kisses and cuddles. Seeks long term relationship with n/s fun guy. Hants. Reply to Box No 5800.

JEWISH gentleman sought by lovely lady, mid 40s, interests: music, art and conversation and travel. Must be successful and intelligent. Please Reply to Box No 6067.

LADY 62, intelligent, caring n/s widow, seeks kind, sincere companionship, love. Suffolk. Please Reply to Box No 5872.

LEGGY attractive professional lady age 36, loves country pursuits and Bryan Ferry, seeks similar, intelligent man aged between 35 and 45. West Midlands/Worcestershire area. Please Reply to Box No 5958.

LONDON Lecturer 45 sees chronic waste when consulting mirror! Difference beautiful adventurous gentleman to ski, sail, scuba and travel and to hibernate and contemplate. Photo app. Reply to Box 6082

LORD (aged grey eyed Surrey blonde, 5ft8 40) just rigid, sane and charismatic, stylish and spontaneous. Seeks successful man who is self aware and sensitive, pragmatic and positive, to share summer fruits. Please Reply to Box No 5988.

LOVELY lively lady, late 40s, seeks male, not too serious, bridge partner. Box No 6065.

MAD about Mozart and Monet: Degas and Dolcetta?? Tall, slim, young 43 yr old; articulate, attractive, independent professional woman, seeks similar interesting and very intelligent n/s male to share love of opera, art, music and country walks. London, S/E. Please Reply to Box No 6081.

MEET attractive, sexy woman at London singles' parties.
MEET 'N' EAT 071 629 8634

MISSION impossible? Christian. 5'10" ns non-drinking. 32. Seeks tall/v fresh version, 30-42. Enjoys travel, music, theatre. London/SE. Photo. Please reply to Box No 5899

NEW to Berks and WLTM a warm witty interesting guy 46+ to share new adventures abroad, and lots of laughs at home on my Thames balcony. Own ladder desirable, but not essential. No Right Wingers or trainspotters, please. Smokers welcome - now there's a novelty! Please reply Box No 5989

NORTH West business lady, early 40s with young outlook, tall, slim, attractive, fun-loving, varied interests, W/T/M, man late 30s early 40s to share the nice things in life. Please write enclosing photo to Box 6078.

NOTTM 40's girl, pale but interesting, fun but fragile, WLTM tall dark prof male. Please Reply to Box No 6131

NURSE young 46, slim, warm, sociable, intelligent. Varied interests, seeks kind personable outgoing gentleman for lasting relationship. Herts/Dorset border. Reply to Box No 5803

NURSING flight deck floosie, 29, seeks her captain 27-36. Loves red wine & pasta, country walks and hiking. Pool - swimming and playing footy if I can win! V.G.S.O.H. a must. Please Reply to Box No 6032.

ODDBALL rose from traditional potting shed. Tall, professional, 2 chicks nearly flown. Camb/Suffolk. WLTM similar male 45-60, many interests, bridge etc. Box No 6004.

OPTIMISTIC romantic, attractive, creative, sensitive, warm woman, loves arts, travel, stimulating conversation, writing, dancing, exploring, gardening, harmony. Eat-amazing! Excited by life? Photo if poss. Box 6039

OVER 50S! Gentlemen in the Midlands looking for stylish and sophisticated women. Elite introductions' special offer for 14 days only - have over 200 ladies waiting to meet you. call for appt 0121 386 3444

OXFORD based slim & attractive brunette 44, full of fun, good looks, theatre, food & wine etc & plenty of friends but WLTM someone to share these with. Reply to Box No 5848

POOR but proud. Intelligent classy lady, seeks tall well groomed caring spoken n/s affluent knight 28-46 for meaningful relationship. ALA. Photo, phone no. Box 6060.

PRETTY petite brunette widow W/L/T/M, handsome, successful n/s businessman 50-60 with GSOH for romance /companionship Photo essential. Box No 6026

PROFESSIONAL lady, 30, tall, slim, attractive and sporty. Caring, affectionate, V.G.S.O.H. W.L.T.M. gentleman 28-40, with same qualities for friendship, evenings out and who knows - love! Midlands/Warwickshire. Please Reply to Box No 5887.

PROFESSIONAL Writer late 30s, attractive single Mum to 3 kids, knows you can't always write happy endings but it's fun to try. Seeks someone appreciative of friendship, humour & curiosity about the world & enjoys arts, tennis. Photo prez W/London Box 6118

PROFESSIONAL haute cuisine cook, slim and hungry for right man, 5'10"+, 35-55, guarantees to get your taste buds going if you can share country pursuits, wine and conversation. Photo appreciated. Box 6033.

PUT a Zing in Spring, attractive prof woman wishes to share varied interests & discover new ones! Slim attractive unattached prof man aged 45-55, London, South & West England. Photo plse to Box 6097

RECIPE Aml/Amour. Take 1 feminine stocking-clad blonde, but still with fun loving bod, 1 attractive stylish dynamic cocktail 46-54. Add essential chemistry/GSOH. Large measure of the arts good food and conversation to settle down with and possibly start a family. Please Reply to Box No 5926

SOPHISTICATED attractive slim warm affectionate 40's W.L.T.M businessman n/s with GSOH sincere caring well travelled sporty tall no hang-ups for serious relationship. W London /Surrey. Photo to Box 5838

STUNNING sporty blonde prof lady 30 seeks genuine outgoing tall, sincere gentleman up to 42 with GSOH to share cultured interests incl. countryside and travel view to long-term relationship. London /Home Counties. Photo please to Box 6048

STYLISH. Intelligent woman, 45. I think I am slim, attractive with a warm, perceptive character and GSOH. I am interested in opera, the arts, tennis, entertaining, gardening, animals, reading and in meeting a man of goodwill, 40-55, taller, adventurous with intelligence, charm, wit, kindness and reasonably successful life style. London. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6079.

STYLISH lady 56 slim, attractive, comfortable lifestyle, home loving with hedonistic streak seeks urbane reliable n/s man, generous and appreciative. Sussex. Box No 5695

TRULY Madly Deeply fascinating widow, very happily based with grea, WLTM cultivated man 40+ with wit, awareness, flair and integrity. Box No 5887

WANTED country loving gentleman 40-52+ for glamorous 7 yr old & wild Irish dog. If you have children all the better Reply to Worn Out 54 yr old in need of much looking after. Box No 6036

WELL travelled slim, feminine, elegant ex Co Director, 5'6" living North Bucks seeks gentleman 55-65 to share Henley, Aerol, Ascot, concerts, first nig fires, country walks and fun Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5914

WELSH widow 55 pretty but poor requires 'Man at Arms' to hold life's hand (not hit it!) London/East Anglia. Box 6081

WIDOW Smart, young looking, fit 46, seeks gentleman with good sense of humour, interests include classical and 60s music, walking, holidays, painting, eating out. Lancashire, Cheshire area. Photo would be appreciated. Please Reply Box 5842.

WOULD you like a weekend in the Cotswolds/Welsh Valleys? Lady 46 with comfy home and 2 acres will welcome gent for walking, bird watching, pubbing. Please Reply to Box No 6026.

YES, Yes, Yes! When Harry met Sally - relationship reviewed. Tall, attractive, honest 30-45 yrs gentlemen please write with photo to 30s bubbly blonde (Herts). Box No 6112

GENTLEMEN

ABSOLUTELY fabulous fella, good looking, tall, successful, cultured Director, 40's, absolutely wonderful female, pretty, bright, stylish lady 30's, with GSOH who likes wining, dining, theatre, travel, TLC and romance. Photo ensures reply. London/S.East area. Please Reply to Box No 5789.

ABSOLUTE bargain - Romantic, witty gentleman, 30, tall, successful, reliable and handsome. WLTM similar presence beautiful younger independent female blue eyes, blonde hair and a Cabriolet guarantees fast reply!! Berks/Bucks/Oxon or anywhere. Phone no & photo essential. Please Reply to Box 5963.

ACTIVE male, professional, late twenties, 5'11" Beds based, good looking with varied interests including rugby, skydiving and watersports I enjoy the finer things in life including good food, wine, clothes and would consider myself romantic I WLTM a very feminine, attractive, professional lady of a similar age who would enjoy being pampered and spoilt. If this is you please send a recent photo to guarantee reply. Please Reply to Box No 5964.

ACTIVE swordsman with baggage and bicycle seeks n/s fair maiden 35-45 with unicycle for jousting practice. Cheshire. Reply to Box No 6094.

AIRLINE Pilot, attractive, good laugh, seeks slim, 30s Co-Pilot for happy landings. London & SE. Photo plse. Box No 5994

AMIABLE lab young man, 30, well travelled & educated seeks fun loving attractive young female for laughter & romance. London/South. Box 5909.

ANGLO-IRISH graduate (more Anglo than Irish), unpretentious an reputedly humorous and charming(!), returning to Ireland to restore and live in his Georgian house in "the country house and arboretum in "the garden of Ireland" near Dublin, invites an attractive enthusiastic financially independent n/s lady around 60 to share the adventure and romance of a lifetime, creating a beautiful home in lovely grounds and opening them to the public, involving some hard work, a lot of fun and hopefully much love. Strong sense of humour a must. Please write to Box No 6107. All letters answered.

ARE you 30's - waiting for a romantic 42 yr old Co. Director (6'5" Jewish N/O GSOH) to sweep you off your feet? Do you like Cinema, travel, eating out (or nights in)! Current affairs and want to share life and lots of love? Then I want to hear from you (photo essential) London/S.East. Box No 5782

ASIAN man, prof. 28, 5'11", good looking and very intelligent. Sometimes funny but often serious, seeks female with lots of integrity, lots of brains and lots of independence...for...ever? Reply to Box 5891.

ASSERTIVE company director, 38 yrs, 6ft, brown hair/eyes, solvent, attractive. Seeks based, WLTM v.attractive girl up to 35, slim and respectful. Photo and phone no essential Please Reply to Box No 6011.

ATTRACTIVE extrovert intelligent lady sought by young 65yr old widower with wide interests for companionship or more. Age age over 40, South West London or Surrey. Write with photo to Box No 5968

ATTRACTIVE man 40+ slim, 5'9" VGSOH dropping out to buy small restaurant or wine bar somewhere nice. Seeks slim attractive 20's or 30's to share the adventure. London. Photo and letter to Box No 6148

ATYPICAL Caucasian Arab, tall dark handsome, fascinating, mid-40's, post-graduate, self made, semi-millionaire, seeks younger compatible well-travelled and cultured female companion. Letter and photo please to Box No 5864.

A VERY happy successful businessman, 39, 6ft, good looking, sporting, unpretentious, wide interests, S.E. based, WLTM slim, attractive, happy, successful younger female. Photo and phone please. Box No 6035.

BATH Area, FR prof man, 43, interests incl. Theatre, Travel, Walking, Good Food, Motoring. WLTM attractive intelligent lady for caring, and sharing. Please Reply to Box No 5781

BERKS. Successful prof. n/s 5'9" gentle/attractive/fit/faithful/ good humoured/various interests "50ish" seeks similar "40ish" travelleron soulmate/ lover/companion/friend. Please reply/Photo pref. Box No 5878

BIRMINGHAM Masseur, realising that ladies are not always horizontal would like to meet feminine female companion age 48, to share opera, country strolling, swimming, holidays, deep relaxation and quiet nights in. Please Reply to Box No 5784

BUSY, witty, well-travelled, caring professional, 32, n/s, WLTM warm, attractive prof. lady to share outings, laughs and influence the future. Non American/S. European affinities/roots maybe a plus. S.East/London. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box 5995

CASH-strapped SW London lawyer, 50, enjoys sports and spare time seeks caring, romantic, attractive and solvent partner and best friend to join forces and enjoy shared interests. He has GSOH and loves people, singing and writing music, dancing (ballroom and rock and roll), sports, travel, country, wining and dining and lots of love. Please reply with photo to Box No 6136.

COLORADO based Englishman on sabbatical leave in Midlands (can travel), kind, considerate, cheerful, playful, adventurous, healthy, n/s, good appearance, mid 50's, considering partial relocation to UK, seeks attractive slim professional lady with petite, humour, diplomacy, good character, intellectual sparkle, solvency, 35-50, able potentially to re-locate or split UK/US residence, best of both worlds! Photo plse. Box 5788

DUBLIN based lawyer 40, interests photography, sport, S.O.H W.L.T.M, like minded lady for fun & friendship. Drop a line with photo. Box No 6014.

COSMOPOLITAN, gentle, educated, yoursmith, early fifty, British man seeks lady, warm, loyal, attractive, preferable age 30-40s for a beautiful permanent relationship. Interests include classical music, books, films, jazz, nature, travel Photo exchange/ returned London U.K. Reply to Box No 5871.

DOCTOR (G.P in London) - young fit 50 single, caring, good natured, sincere, quite good-looking, 5'7" seeks kind, genuine and attractive lady with an outgoing personality in her early thirties for genuine friendship and marriage. Photo essential, Please Reply to Box No 6089

DOMINANT creative and very successful male 6'3", blonde, blue eyes, slim, fit, late thirties seeks shy heroine (really an absolute, brains desirable, age immaterial) willing to share the delights and the dangers of a voyage of sexual discovery Photo essential Box No 5961.

DO you like to laugh? I do! I am also independent, slim, 54-6ish, Australian and almost always on holiday if you want a partner, adventure and lots of fun in your life why don't we laugh together Please write with recent photo to Box No 6000

DROP dead gorgeous blonde career girl wanted, mid 30s who would like to meet cultured professional near London based man who is interested in foreign films, far away places and is living a sophisticated urban lifestyle and is very successful and wealthy Photo appreciated Box No 5969.

EARLY thirties, lean fit, country guy, looking for romance, seeks lady to share good things in life. Oxford area. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5984.

EASY—going Surrey writer (51) prefers congenial surroundings to money, self sufficient, not a rat race - seeks attractive better half, 30/40, share rural idyll, children welcome. All this and heaven if you can't bear to play bertini! Photo essential please. Io Box No 5969

ELDERLY widower has a statistical expectation of life ten years & would like to enjoy them with a congenial lady I have minor disabilities but am well preserved, in good physical condition, good appearance, educated, cultured, 5ft 10, slim 10st 10: with some virility, virility, & enthusiasm left; who is financially able to enjoy leisure generous holidays & travel, I have a long record as a good husband & am looking for a warm, loving relationship if I find it so will my partner. The lady might be any age but there are circumstances such that a substantially younger woman might like to take me on. She must be slim, max size 12, petite, max 5ft 4" & preferably pretty, obedient, submissive, affectionate - sexy, a graduate in domestic science & a motorist. Ref I might require for me. You have nothing to lose, give me a phone number for more information Box 5783

ENGLISH ROGUE WLTM fun-loving girl, any nationality. Highly independent, GSOH and incurably romantic. Not very demanding all you need to be is mid 30's or less and charming. ALA. Exchange photos. Box No 6140

ENJOYABLE I'm male 48 with no encumbrances and a lifestyle that could be so attractive seeks a partner. A well educated, beautiful, sensitive woman who will turn heads, hold conversations, support a career and endow walks in the woods with magic. Please write. A romantic with her feet on the ground and a sense of humour to match mine Londonish. Please Reply to Box No 5795

ESSEX professional man, 42, 6ft, good looking, young in spirit and appearance Enjoys theatre, cinema, dining out, concerts etc. Enjoys travel and is much travelled W.L.T.M caring younger woman who likes interests and remainder life. Children not a problem Please Reply to Box No 6086

EXTREMELY eligible London based professional 45, n/s with everything going for him but somewhat lacking in care for W.L.T.M. a positive outgoing and challenging damsel, probably 25-35 for whom happiness suits Letter with photo assures reply. Box No 6110.

FED up with lovboys? Good looking prof man, 48, genuine, no hang ups or ties, GSOH would love to share attractive lady 28-38 who she's missing. London /Surrey Photo if poss + tel no to Box No 5923

FIRE Officer, 39), Midlands based, tall and slim with brown eyes, dark hair GSOH, who enjoys cooking new Italian, eating out, live music, in fact anything goes (I'll try anything at least once), p/t parent, p/t student seeks slim female for fun filled, long term relationship. Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 5910

GENTLE, understanding, cuddly, slightly humorous quite fit, tall, clean living, single, attractive, available fellow seeks a mature woman (say 40ish to 60ish) as a best friend with whom to have a lasting, intense, loving, relationship, to join together in an intellectual, cultural, passionate & hilarious life style London based but ready & willing to go anywhere & do anything with the right partner I shall honour your confidence & respond. Please reply to Box No 6122.

MALE 34, seeks Berks/Hants/Surrey lady, to give his last Rolo to Please Reply to Box No 6061

FRANCE Ret'd Englishman living alone, except dog, in South of France seeks congenial female companion to share house & expenses. He is a very active (hyper!) 70+. Own village house in heart of wine country. Not isolated i.e. 2 mins motorway, 3 mins rail (TGV), 10 mins sea, 30 mins int. airport, 60 mins Spain. House has 3 beds, sunny terraces, modern kitchen, 2 baths, satellite TV, phone. Fax, computer etc. & pool, garage. He has expensive taste but modest income. Interests inc travel, wine & food, cinema, TV, poker, shares, champagne She would probably be retd 55+ prof with no ties, similar or compatible interests, tolerance and sense of humour, sun lover, driver and hopefully with reasonable French and/or Spanish. Please reply to Box No 5993

GLOS based, tall, prof. male (54) into rugby, theatre, countryside, skiing, conversation sought attractive n.s. lady, 24-34 for friendship and laughter. Photo appreciated Box 5918.

GOOD LOOKING, well built, slim, fit, 6ft, educated, fun, caring, interesting young 1965 vintage male, VGSOH, South East Area seeks slim, professional single lady around 1968 vintage with view to lasting relationship Recent photo please. All replies answered. Reply to Box No 6008

GOOD LOOKING well educated very successful generous businessman aged 42, enjoys wining, dining, theatre and travel seeks very good looking lady who is not too career minded for fun, friendship and good times. Photo and telephone number appreciated. Please Reply to Box 6006

GOOD-LOOKING 40 yr old businessman seeks lady 30-37 for companionship/travelling. No strings or commitments, must be free to travel abroad. London area. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 5815

GOOD looking man, 41, grad, music lover, various cultural interests, seeks attractive, sensitive woman for warmth, tenderness, & lasting relationship London area Box No 5988

GOOD looking solvent slim 35 yr old, Cheshire/Lancs. No ties, honest & caring enjoys life's finer things in life. Seeks attractive lady of similar age or younger Photo pls. ALA. Box 5985

GOOD-LOOKING 6ft athletic slim 40s, GSOH, Surrey based, gent seeks fit independent, attractive lady 30-40 for fun times. Food and wine lover. Photo please. Box No 6151.

GUYS GALORE (All with hair & under 44) but a shortfall of girls - coming to my Mayfair garden party! A private house. Invitation only. There's a party most months. Without exception. We're attractive, lively people - Pub Sch, prof/bus background, decent London lifestyle. Girls, 30's who identify, please call Patricia 0181 392 9009 (H) Wknds/eves

HANDSOME, intelligent and well-educated Surrey-based consultant who is caring, sensitive, successful, would like to meet refined, well educated, very attractive, slim lady who has a discerning interest in the Arts and a positive outlook on life. I'm legally separated with own home and business. I'm a n/s 6ft 6 year old creative, positive thinker with GSOH. An introductory letter with recent photograph will ensure reply. Box No 6125.

"HANDSOME Romantic Cornishman" 45, seeks attractive, petite, n/s, Christian lady, under 45, interests, Art, theatre, travelling & romantic coastal, countryside walks dinners etc. Photo appreci Please Reply to Box No 5882

INCURABLE romantic. Caring, generous, considerate divorced businessman, 58, with artistic and sporting interests. Wants to indulge a lady with wit, elegance and intellect, aged 40-60, who has a mean backhand, a penchant for wining & dining and other tactile talents. Based North East but mobile Box 5873

INDEPENDENT male, 60, 5'11", slim, recently single, looking for articulate n/s slim lady approx 50-65 yrs - to share variety of interests in London and country. If your normal hesitancy would preclude answering such an ad - please reply! Box No 5954

LONDON based s/employed businessman late 50's GSOH broad minded healthy n/s caring & sensitive many interests & no ties, WLTM lady 28-45 to share fun/romance & finer pleasures of life. No S/S recpnt photo guarantees reply. Box No 5980

MACHO never, but definitely masculine, tall American, 40, businessman/professional musician (classical, jazz, pop), considered good-looking, athletic build, GSOH, loyal, sensitive, affectionate n/s. Into arts, sports (not football), movies, travel and slow dancing. Seeking slim, attractive, intelligent woman, 25-35, to be my partner and best friend. Oxfordshire, but travel no problem for right woman Photo with letter to Box No 5816

MANCHESTER Chester, North West: Professional man seeks a broadly religious

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

CITY solicitors Watson, Farley & Williams have decided to honour the achievements of Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, who died in March. Artist Barry Martin, captain of the Chelsea Arts club chess team, has been commissioned to produce a trophy featuring one of Sir Stuart's most famous positions, to be awarded annually to the most brilliant game played in the Oxford v Cambridge Varsity match.

As a former top board for the Cambridge team, Sir Stuart would have approved.

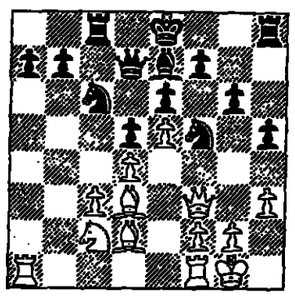
Today is my final tribute to both Sir Stuart and Harry Golombek, who between them occupied the post of *Times* chess correspondent for 47 years. In the game which follows, a clash between two friendly rivals, Golombek's favourite Caro-Kann appears to emerge on top from the opening, but Sir Stuart's facility for tactics eventually gains the upper hand. These notes are based on Sir Stuart's comments.

White: Sir Stuart Milner-Barry
Black: Harry Golombek
Paignton, 1955

1	e4	c6	2	Nf3	d5
3	e5	c5	4	b4	cxb4
5	a3	bxa3	6	Nxa3	

A sort of Wing Gambit in which White has answered ... d5 with e5 — usually a poor move when the Black queen's bishop can get out, but here White has an extra tempo.

6	...	Nc6	7	Be2	Bg4
8	d4	e6	9	0-0	Nge7
10	c3	Nf5	11	Qd3	Be7
12	h3	Bxf3	13	Qxf3	h5
14	Bd3	g6	15	Nc2	Rc8
16	Bd2	Qd7			



White appears to have little compensation for the pawn. But his defensive position, based on the pawn at c3, is very strong, and as the course of the game shows, the Black kingside is not as invulnerable as it looks.

17	Ne3	Kf8	18	g3	a6
19	Ng2	Kg7	20	Nf4	Nh6
21	Kg2	Na7	22	g4	h4
23	Ne2				

A further regrouping to play f4 and eventually f5.

23 ... Nb5 24 Qe3 Na3 25 f4.

Black's hold on f5 is so strong that White must eventually sacrifice. I seriously considered 25 Rxa3 at once, so as to preserve the valuable king's bishop, but eventually decided not to commit myself irrevocably just yet.

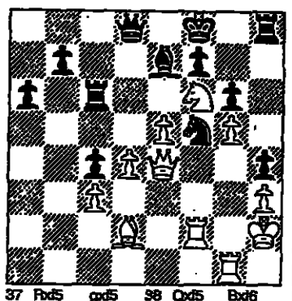
25	...	Nc4	26	Bxc4	dxc4
27	Kh2	Qc6	28	Rf2	Kf8
29	Rg1	Ke8	30	f5	exf5

Best. If 30 ... gxf5, White would break through by g5 and g6.

31	g5	f4	32	Nd4	Nf5
33	Qe1	Qc7	34	Nd5	Qd8
35	Nf6+	Kf8			

The best chance was 35 ... Bxf6 but after 36 exf6+ Kd7 (36 ... Kf8 leaves the rook bottled in), 37 Bf4 I doubt that the position can be held.

36 Qe4 Rc8.



37	Rd5	gxf5	38	Qd5	Bxf6
39	gxf6	Qd5	40	Qg4	Ke8
41	Qg7	Rb6			

If 41 ... Rf8 then 42 Bh6 wins.

42	Qxh8+	Kd7	43	Qxh4	Rb2
44	Rg2	a5	45	Qg4+	

Black resigns.

WINNING MOVE

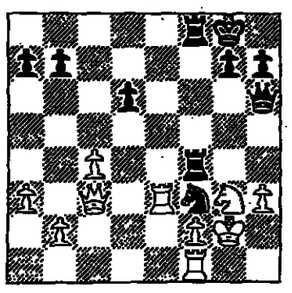
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Holland - Shaw, Cafe Baroque 1995. Of the three pawns that defend a kingside castled position (i.e. the f-, g- and h-pawns), the g-pawn is usually the most valuable. Here, White has lost this pawn and now pays the ultimate price. How did Black continue?

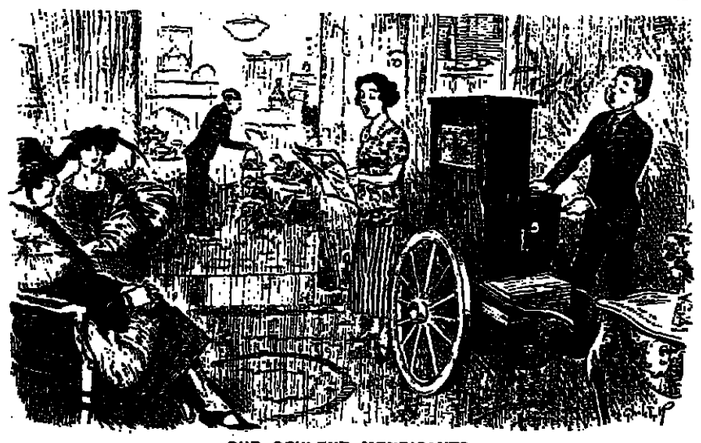
Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Nf5.

Last week's winners: W E Beasley, London N17; M Skidmore, Aberbargoed, Mid Glam; A Sutcliffe, London NW2.



PUNCHLINE



OUR OPULENT MENDICANTS.
MR. AND MRS. HANDEL-TURNER (well known on West-End rounds) AT HOME.
[If certain reports are true as to the fortunes that are being made on the kerbstone.]

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon above. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestion, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 56, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 10.



"Tell me, David, do you read D. H. Lawrence?

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mrs C. Atkinson of Broadstairs, Kent

COMPUTER GAMES

SUPER COACH

WHY IS rugby so called? (After the school where it originated.) How long ago? (170 years.) What were the first balls made from? (Pig's bladder.) What colour kit did the New Zealand All Blacks originally wear? (White.) Players in the ruck must ... (keep their eyes open).

These are questions from *SuperCoach*, a vibrant teaching and coaching aid about rugby on CD-Rom.

SuperCoach is aimed at encouraging the game in schools. It was specifically developed for 11 to 14-year-olds, and it is so easy to run that even a teacher can use it. The title is the result of fine handling by several interested parties: the program is sponsored by Sun Alliance and endorsed by the Rugby Football Union, it was developed by Interactive Software Products (ISP) of Halesowen, West Midlands, which makes it available to schools at just £12 a copy (instead of the normal retail price of £39.95).

There's great novelty value attached to *SuperCoach*, which plays straight into the hands of its intended age group. "And it's not just one wet afternoon's entertainment," adds the ISP bumf. True and ironic: rugby practice was never called off because of a bit of rain — if memory serves, it wasn't even cancelled during force ten gales in sub-zero temperatures.

There arrived a hefty post-bag for Cyberspace Fourteen, asking you to come up with ideas for a multi-player CD-i game. Before casting an eye over just a sprinkling of the entries, a quick look at why others, regrettably, had to be disqualified. Some missed the point, dreaming up games for just one player; some delivered illegible entries; some coyly omitted their age (the chestnut, "old enough to know better", failed to wash with the judges) and one reader not only omitted age, but also failed to mention name, address and telephone number.

Staying with ages, one of the oldest entrants was 72-year-old Mr J. Forster of Howden, North Humberside, who loosely based his game on the adventures of Robinson Crusoe. Starting with the shipwreck, each player must clutch on to a piece of wood to float to the shore. Then comes the team-work, needed to fight off wild animals and troublesome pirates on the trail for a boat to ferry them all back to safety.

Mr R. Symonds of Bexleyheath, Kent, dreamt up what, at first, seemed to be a most gentle game of computer croquet. He believed it would appeal to all members of the family but especially mothers, as they "would find too irresistible the chance to croquet their husband's balls the length of the computer lawn".

Heading off at something of a tangent was Mr P. Patel of Willesden, North London. He had a novel though costly twist on things to keep the family engrossed — using two CD-i players. He wrote: "One would drive normal game software, while the second would be loaded with pictures of the family on a photo CD. Then, any of the standard characters in the software could be substituted with pictures of the family." More from the mountain of entries next week.

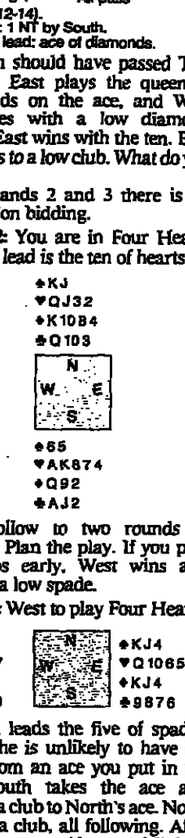
TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

DECIDING what to do when, as declarer, you have KJ(x) opposite xx(x) is a frequent problem. Here are three examples.

Hand 1:
Dealer West — Love all



W	N	E	S
1 NT[1]	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	All pass	

[1] Weak (12-14).
Contract: 1 NT by South.
Opening lead: ace of diamonds.

North should have passed Two Hearts. East plays the queen of diamonds on the ace, and West continues with a low diamond which East wins with the ten. East switches to a low club. What do you do?

On hands 2 and 3 there is no opposition bidding.

Hand 2: You are in Four Hearts and the lead is the ten of hearts.

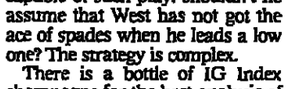
All follow to two rounds of trumps. Plan the play. If you play on clubs early, West wins and returns a low spade.

Hand 3: West to play Four Hearts.

North leads the five of spades, and as he is unlikely to have led away from an ace you put in the jack. South takes the ace and returns a club to North's ace. North returns a club, all following. After drawing trumps (they are 2-2), how do you play the diamonds?

ANSWERS

Hand 1: This is an example of a technique called "Playing on an assumption". In this instance, if East has the ace of spades you will lose two tricks in the suit. So you have to assume West has that card. If he has the spade ace, there is not room in his hand for the ace of clubs — that would give him 15 points (remember, he is marked with the ace and king of diamonds after the play to the first two tricks.). So go in with the king of clubs. If that loses to the ace of clubs, resign yourself to going two down — the ace of spades will be wrong. The full deal was:



Hand 2: *When this hand occurred, the declarer, Irving Gordon, recognised that if the club finesse was right the contract was assured — take three rounds of clubs and play a spade, forcing the defence to open up the diamonds or give a ruff and discard. So after drawing trumps, he played clubs. West won the club and returned a spade. The full deal:*

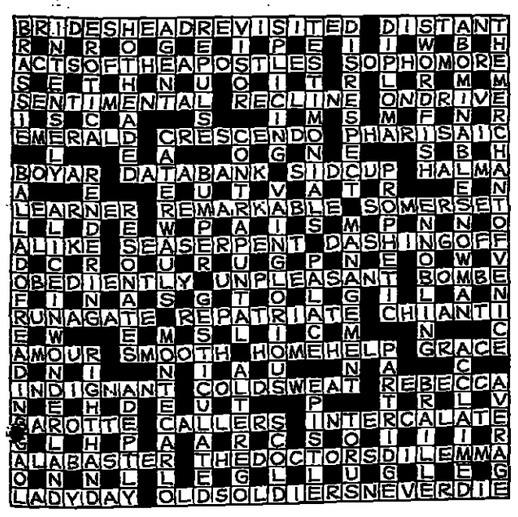
Gordon went in with the king of spades, and when that held he cleared clubs and exited with a spade, forcing the defence to open up the diamonds. It was a well-reasoned play. The point is, if declarer guesses correctly by putting in the jack of spades, he still has to find the jack of diamonds. But if he guesses correctly by playing the king of spades, the elimination play means his troubles are over.

I think his line is right in practical play, as West will always play low from ace and other spades. However, if West knew what South had, he would have played ace and another spade, leaving the declarer to guess the diamonds. But following on from that, if South thinks West is capable of such play, shouldn't he assume that West has not got the ace of spades when he leads a low one? The strategy is complex.

There is a bottle of IG Index champagne for the best analysis of the correct plays for both West and South, if South is *known* to have a doubleton spade. Send your entry by May 31 to Bridge Competition, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

Hand 3: Consider North's lead. Holding Qxx(x) in both spades and diamonds, he would lead a diamond half of the time. With Qxx(x) in spades and Axx(x) in diamonds North would lead a spade all of the time. So a spade lead is twice as likely to be from a hand containing Axxx of diamonds as it is from one containing Qxxx. Put up the king of diamonds.

EASTER JUMBO CROSSWORD



The six winning entries to the Easter Jumbo Crossword, published on April 15, 1995, who each receive £100, are:

Dr R.D. Bailey, Ewell, Surrey.
C.J. Dight, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
M. Lee, Mitcham, Surrey.
D. Palmer, London W14.
J.M. Smith, Brentwood, Essex.
A.G. Watts, Exeter, Devon.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

YESTERFANG
a. A milk tooth
b. An old wolf
c. Taken in the past

INTERBASTATION
a. Machicolation
b. Envious gossip
c. Quilting

BUNKUM
a. Oakum
b. Claptrap
c. An Amerindian bed

THELYPHTHORIC
a. A miracle cure
b. Corrupting women
c. A weed-killer

Answers: page 20

CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Crosswords - Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each. Books 14 to 19 £4.50 each. The Times Concise Crossword - Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each. Books 4 to 7 £4.99 each. The Times Two Crosswords - Book 2 £3.99. The Times Jumbo Crosswords - Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each. Concise Book 1 £5.99.
SUNDAY TIMES CROSSWORDS: The Sunday Times Crosswords - Book 1 £4.99. Books 10 to 13 £4.50 each. The Sunday Times Concise Crosswords - Books 1 to 3 £4.50 each. Book 4 £3.99.
TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS: For IBM PC and Acorn Archimedes range. 34 titles £14.95 each. Send SAE for details.
Prices inc p&p (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Alkom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery to 5 days. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

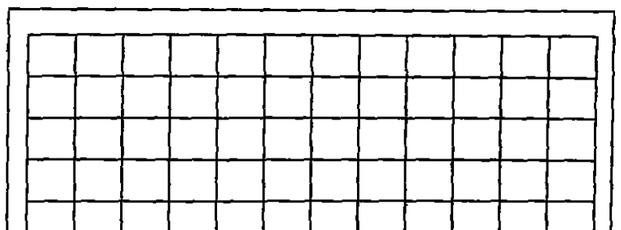
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3304: Carte Blanche by Corylus

It is necessary to put in the conventional numbers as well as the (180 degree) rotationally symmetrical bars. Two clue answers are proper names not in Chambers but in Collins; two answers consist of 2 words.

Clues (in conventional order)

It's a help in calculating what you will have to pay shortly on autobahn?
Clever arranging Australian/European exchanges? It would be silly
Karate costume's holding in Henry's spreading items
Justice proper to Scottish adult religious adherent
Canterbury dog runs round a tree there
Boer encampment is over-authentic?
Male implied all women kept back a bit of memory
A desert without end after crossing this?
Supported by US firm essentially
Variant reading found by Scottish teachers for US swamps
Valleys used to be the haunt of the gods
Growth needs ten-fold initial reduction to make a tree-lined walk
What makes one sick? Using other type of Japan's capital for shark film
Characters aptly found in Natchez, Monroe & Lake Charles?
Psychiatrist makes Lord climb up in tree
Handsomely giving British Bible to a diocese
Break down in Perth not equal to place where vehicle's left
Cooking pots of Louisiana etc?
Contest's not brilliant in part of game
Fellow soul in TV programme
Work in Scotland getting money from deer?
Smell power in walk to Alice Springs once?
What's used in ro-ro manufacture ultimately after processing
Makes dough, not then having these it's said?
New units in service
What's found in poet's lines perhaps is but Latin blood group from the south
It could embellish a short talk
Odd-looking thing in Northanger Abbey which Roman finds a variable quantity
Weigh half a bucket
To do this might involve making cut — taking little time expressing disgust



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3304

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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POSTCODE.....



PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The Listener Crossword 3304, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, May 18.

Solution to No. 3001: Hangover Cure, by Franc

The hangover referred to is the tendency of solutions to hang over the edge of the grid (Procrustes' bed).

Such solutions must have the portion which overhangs amputated. For lights contiguous with the tops or left edges of the grid, the amputated part contains the surplus left-hand characters of the solution.

For lights contiguous with the bottom of right edges of the grid, the amputated part contains the surplus right-hand characters of the solution.

For lights which are not contiguous with the edge of the grid, no amputation is necessary.

The top and bottom rows form the first five words (TYRANTS MORE CRUEL THAN PROCRUSTES) of a quotation in Brewer's under "Procrustes". The first *and* last letters of the surplus words taken in clue order complete the quotation.

T	Y	R	A	N	T	S	M	O	R	E	C	R	U	E
R	A	I	N	E	R	T	I	T	T	E	R	I	S	A
U	R	G	I	S	A	I	N	T	E	D	E	S	P	L
E	D	I	S	T	I	L	S	E	N	S	A	T	I	O
R	A	D	T	O	N	A	L	I	T	E	M	O	R	N
A	D	L	E	S	I	L	I	C	O	N	A	P	E	E
L	A	Y	S	S	I	L	V	E	R	E	D	U	S	T
E	M	I	T	R	O	P	E	B	O	W	D	L	E	R
P	A	N	O	U	N	A	L	I	S	T	R	E	N	I
O	N	C	R	I	O	T	E	R	T	R	E	N	T	A
L	T	H	A	N	P	R	O	C	R	U	S	T	E	S

Down (surplus words)

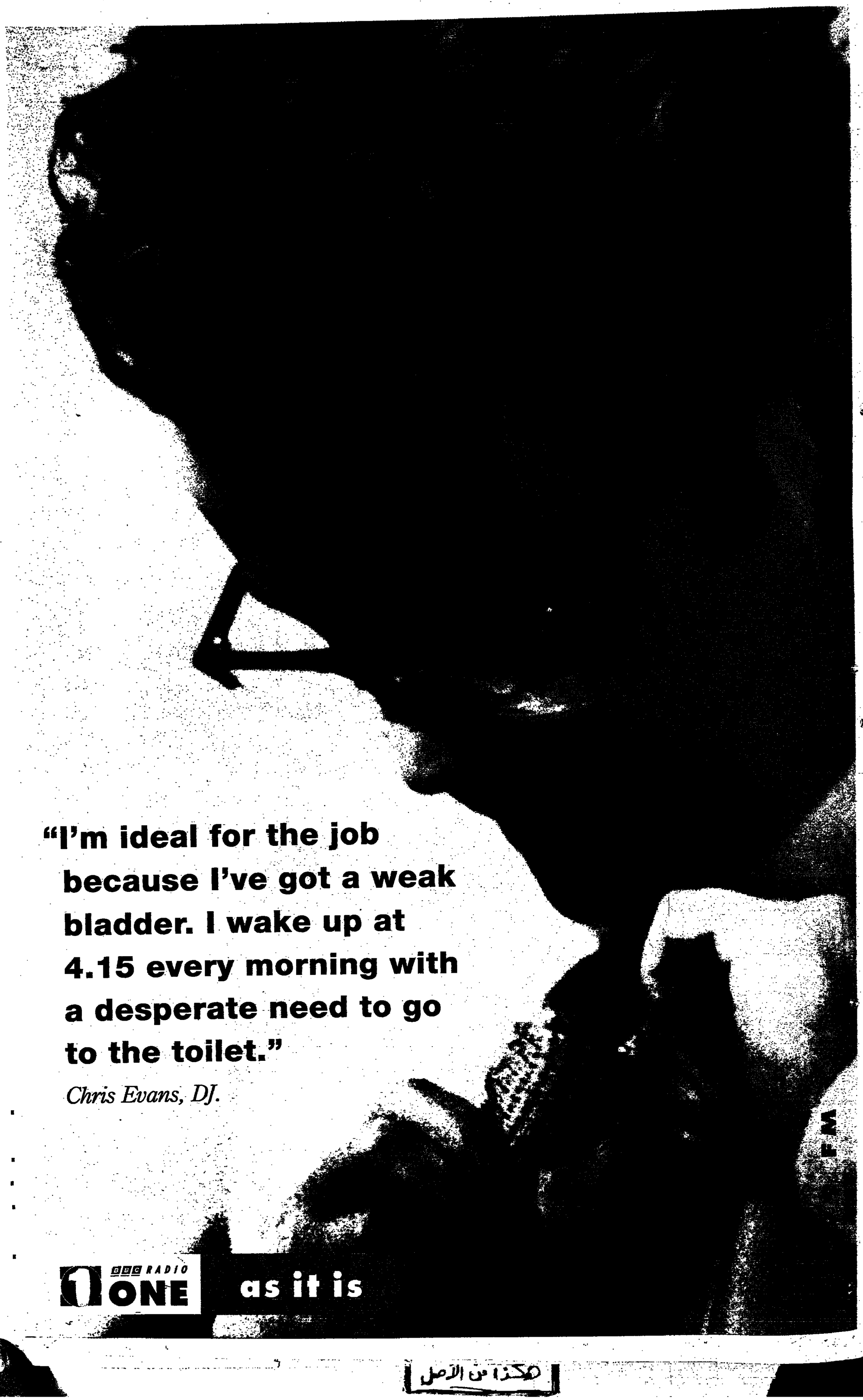
1	ORAL	26	INDOOR
2	DREW	28	NAPOO
3	HERETO	29	BESTIAL
4	THURSO	30	EIDER
5	HINDI	32	PALOOKA
6	SAKI	33	RIGHT
7	ROBERTO	35	SADDEST
8	NAWAB	37	HOSTILE
9	EMPTIED	39	SCENAROI
10	BUBBLY	40	UNUSUAL
11	TOMATO	42	SERVO
12	RICHEST	44	FLOWERS
13	UPPER	45	UNBELIEF
14	ENGULF	46	FEEBLE
15	INSTANT	47	RAKI
23	SPIRIT	48	NOTHING
24	HERMIONE	51	WATER-SKI
		52	TEETOTALLERS

The winner, who receives book tokens worth £50 is J.W. Leonard, of Cross Trees, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire.

The runners-up, who each win book tokens worth £20, are: John Murtagh, of Wordsworth Road, Wallington, Surrey, and A.P. Vick, of Stanley Grange, Roach Road, Samlesbury, Preston, Lancashire.

Correction

There was an error in last week's Listener crossword No. 3303, Unsquare Dance by Googly. Clue number 6 should have read: M -2I + J, L, e.





No. 05,201

With pow

A CHANN

6-1

SE

20-2

COVER STORY

Glam
a night
glitteri
stars

SPORT

The
Badmin
challeng

FILMS

The
pick of
the week
movies

RADIO

VE-D
takes o
Radio

TV & RADIO 5
WEATHER 3
CROSSWORDS 20

هكذا من الأصل